

Hospitals to get more consultants

Hospital consultants will see more patients in future after the Government's decision to accept most of the recommendations of the Short report on medical education and double the number of consultants. Britain has now about 14,000 consultants and 26,000 junior hospital doctors. The Government plans to reverse this by the 1990s. *Page 5*

Iran releases

Andrew Pyke

Iran has released from prison Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman held 17 months without trial. He is now staying at the Swedish Embassy in Tehran and hopes to leave the country when formalities are completed later this week. *Back page*

Leyland strike costs £30m

The future of Leyland's bus and truck factories at Leyland and Chorley is being jeopardised by a 13-day strike which cost the company £30m last month. Mr Ronald Hancock, the chairman, says: "Union leaders meet tomorrow and workers vote tomorrow on whether to continue the strike. *Page 4*

Coal subsidies to continue

The Government has given up the hope of abolishing coal subsidies. Outlining the Coal Industry Bill, Mr John Moore, junior energy minister, said that direct subsidies could total up to £941 million over the next two years. *Page 13*

Labour-SDP hint by Sirs

Labour might have to form a coalition government with the Social Democrats after the next election, Mr William Sirs, the steelworkers' leader, said. He hoped for a Labour victory, but congratulated Mrs Shirley Williams on her return to Parliament as MP for Crosby. *Page 6*

Curb on students

Alarmed at the possibility that universities might become centres of unrest, the Polish military regime has imposed stringent regulations on dorms and students, unheard of in Eastern Europe since Stalinist days. *Page 6*

New archbishop

Father Maurice Couve de Murville, aged 52, senior Roman Catholic chaplain at Cambridge University, is to be installed Archbishop of Birmingham on March 25. *Page 10*

Painting stolen

Two thieves walked out of the Courtauld Institute, in Bloomsbury, London, with a £300,000 painting and fled into the rush hour in a taxi. The small Breughel was one of the least valuable on show. *Page 2*

Armagh bombs

Ulster security forces will attempt today to defuse an estimated 500-600lb of explosives found packed into creamery cans near the village of Cambough, in south Armagh. *Page 13*

Laker buoyant

A buoyant Sir Freddie Laker said that he had raised £60m to end his airline's financial troubles. Bankers, however, appear to think him premature, though ranks are understood to be progressing satisfactorily. *Page 13*

Bristol deadline

The deadline expires at noon today for the eight players Bristol City must shed if it is to survive. If they refuse to go, the club will fold. *Page 17*

Focus on Nigeria

How is President Shehu Shagari holding together this 19-state federation two years after the return to civilian rule? From oil and foreign affairs to the green revolution, a 16-page Special Report investigates the prospects and dilemmas facing Africa's richest and most populous nation. *Page 9*

Leader page 9
Letters: On air fares, from Lady Burton of Coventry, and Mr Peter Martin; Lloyd's B&M, from Sir Philip de Zulzeua

Leading articles: Treasury and pay policy; Mr Prior and Irish policy

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Mr Pym raises the stakes, by Peter Stothard; the snob appeal for Americans of British TV programmes; half a century of BBC broadcasts to the world

Obituary, page 10
Professor P. S. Florence, Mr C. M. Weekley, Lightman

Hopkins

Aslef spurns inquiry and escalates strikes

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The crisis on the railways deepened dramatically last night when the train drivers' union refused to appear before a committee of inquiry and instead announced an escalation of its programme of selective strikes.

Next week, there will be one-day strikes on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. British Rail executives believe it will be difficult to run a reasonable service next Wednesday and will decide tomorrow whether to attempt to run one at all. The network will be shut today and tomorrow as the union holds its fourth 48-hour strike.

The seven members of the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen rejected an appeal from Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, to give their evidence to the inquiry, which was set up under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

BR, along with the other two unions, the National Union of Railwaysmen and the Transport Salaried Staffs Association have agreed to cooperate with the committee of inquiry, which is to be headed by Lord McCarthy and which will sit for the first time this afternoon.

The inquiry, which will reach its decision without evidence from Aslef, is to report possibly by the end of the weekend. Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of Acas, said last night that he had heard Aslef's decision with great regret, but said that the inquiry would still go ahead.

The inquiry team comprises the members of the Railway Staff National Tribunal, which last August recommended the two-stage 11 per cent pay award which was the spring-board for the current dispute.

The other members of the inquiry are: Mr George Doughty, a former general secretary of the Technical Administrative and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and Mr Ted Chappell, a former managing director of ESSO.

The committee was set up under powers that Acas holds and will be required to report as a matter of real urgency. Its terms of reference will be to consider the terms of the 1981 pay and productivity understandings ratified as agreements by the Railway Staffs National Council and, taking into account the agreement to introduce a 39-hour week, to make recommendations to resolve the differences over the pay increase of the further 3 per cent pay increase to formulate grades and over clause 1(c) of the productivity understanding on flexible rostering and related matters.

Last night Mr Murray said: "Naturally I regret today's decision by the executive council of Aslef, but I still hope that, on reflection, they will find themselves able to use the opportunities opened up by the establishment of the independent committee of inquiry."

And, before Aslef's decision was known, Sir Peter Parker, BR chairman, said that the community had to choose between an efficient railway or condemning the system and its workers to a future of frustration and insecurities.

That choice lies at the heart of our present dispute. The board stands firm on its belief that there is no future for the railway but only for an efficient railway".

He said that Freightliner business was down 70 per cent because of the strike and the progressive shut down of the network would start the even-

Vice-President Bush in security scare



Mr Bush stops to enter his car, surrounded by secret service agents.

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 2

Secret Servicemen and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were thrown into a flurry of activity early today when it was feared that a bullet had struck Vice-President George Bush's armoured limousine on his way to the White

House. Police helicopters circled and streets were sealed off around the scene of the incident near a construction site in Central Washington before the FBI determined that the object which struck Mr. Bush's car was almost certainly not a

bullet, but a rock, possibly a stone falling from building work.

Security was naturally nervous following reports late last year that Cuban hit squad might be

attempting to assassinate President

Reagan or his top aides

and FBI had termed a "pro-jezzile".

Mr. Bush said "No"

and "I'm fine".

The security services were

constantly having to be replaced

despite the use of teams of

full-time collectors.

Mr. Bush

arrived at the Capitol, when

asked if he knew whether

his car had been the target

of what the Secret Service

was

not

and

was

not

TUC offers £8,300m deal on jobless to Thatcher

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade Union leaders are offering Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet a "new deal" involving their cooperation with Government and employers if Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, takes up an £8,300m state-funded programme for Recovery.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, yesterday unveiled the TUC's 1982 Economic Review and said the policy document had already been sent to the Treasury. The unions intended to challenge the Chancellor "face to face" with their package proposals. "But it could also be the basis for a new deal between the Government, the TUC and employers to plan the path back to full employment through a national economic assessment and detailed discussions between unions and management leading to agreement on what needs to be done in individual companies," he said.

Mr Murray's bold political initiative is likely to be greeted with some surprise. The tide of opinion among union leaders is running in favour of an end to all tripartite links with the Government and employers in retaliation against Mr Norman Tebbit's Labour reforms.

The TUC will urge the Chancellor to reflate the economy by pumping in £8,300m state cash to push growth up to 4 per cent in 1982-83, admittedly at the expense of a 1.1 per cent rise in the rate of inflation. The programme for Recovery would yield 677,000 new jobs and bring registered unemployed down to just over 2.3 million, it states.

For the first time the TUC has used the Treasury's own economic forecasting model to test the effect of its Budget proposals. "The results are a challenge to the Government," the document argues.

The union package (see table) divides into four roughly equal zones; £2,000m to pay for a reduction in VAT from 15 to 12.5 per cent; a similar amount for capital spending in the public sector; £1,700m for manpower, training and education; and £2,600m spread among the National Health Service, pensions, social benefits, and help to both private and public sector industry.

The TUC calculates that £200m is required to enable nationalised industries to avoid big price increases, and a further £750m to increase retire-

ment pensions to the target level of £37 a week for a single person and £60 for a married couple.

As well as making recommendations to the Chancellor on how much he should give away in his Budget, the TUC seeks to demolish three economic theories popularised by ministers; that workers are "pricing themselves out of jobs"; that young people cannot get work because they seek "too high wages"; and that British productivity is greatly improved by the shake-out of jobs.

Programme for Recovery says: "The Government has attempted to pass on the blame for the rise in unemployment by claiming first that workers have been 'pricing themselves out of jobs' and second that many workers are voluntarily unemployed as the level of unemployment benefit is too generous."

"This does not imply that the manufacturing industry has experienced a lasting improvement; indeed it is now less successful since it is producing less and selling less."

The concluding paragraphs of Programme for Recovery make it clear that Mr Murray's plea for a new deal with the Thatcher Administration is basically poached from the policy-making going on between union leaders and the Labour Party. A national economic assessment of the kind offered to the Government yesterday is envisaged in the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee statement, *Economic Issues Facing the Next Labour Government*, as a cornerstone of relationships between the unions and the next Labour Cabinet.

"It can be proved that workers have not been pricing themselves out of jobs. If it were the case, the pattern of real wages would closely follow the pattern of unemployment—the peaks in real wages would coincide with the peaks in unemployment. In fact the reverse is true. Real wages have been falling in 1981 and will continue to do so in 1982 and yet unemployment continues to rise."

The TUC also denies that the relatively high level of youth unemployment is due to successive youth wages. A Department of Employment Survey going back over five years shows that average pay for the under-18s has fallen from 41 to 39 per cent of adult male earnings.

The TUC's £8,300m Budget package

Programme	Cost for 1982-83
TUC sector capital investment	£2,100m
TUC manpower, education and training strategy	£1,700m
Industrial strategy	£600m
Nationalised industries' current spending	£200m
State pensions	£750m
Social benefits	£700m
Additional resources for local authorities	£225m
Additional NHS funding	£60m
Reduction in VAT from 15 to 12.5 per cent	£2,000m
Total budget expansion	£8,300m

Improvement in the economy using the TUC's policies

Economic growth	3.7 per cent higher than on present policies
New jobs	An extra 677,000 jobs would be created or saved
Unemployment investment	Registered unemployment would fall by 574,000
Personal consumption	Public sector investment would increase by 14 per cent. Private manufacturing investment increases by 6.5 per cent
Exports	Consumption would rise by almost 1 per cent
Imports	Exports of goods and services would be 0.1 per cent higher than on present policies
Balance of payments	Imports would be 0.6 per cent higher than on present policies
Exchange rate	£232m lower than on present policies
PSBR	3.9 per cent lower than on present policies
Inflation	£28 million lower than on present policies
	Rises by 1.1 per cent

Government accused of vetoing oil 'bargain'

By Our Political Editor

The Government was accused yesterday of neglecting the national interest by vetoing the "for ideological reasons" the purchase at a bargain price by the British National Oil Corporation of a valuable North Sea oil interest.

The charge was made in the Commons standing committee examining the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill, which will transfer North Sea oil production to the private sector.

Mr Edward Rowlands, an opposition spokesman on energy, referring to Labour fears that foreign interests might take control of the new company, British Oil, in which the Government will have only a minority holding, cited what he called "the scandal of the Santa Fe concession".

The reference was to the purchase by the Kuwaiti national oil company of a part interest in a North Sea exploration group which BNOC in 1980 sought government permission to buy. They were refused by Mr David Howell, then Secretary of State for Energy, with very much regret, although he said he was conscious of the potential benefit which the deal might bring.

Mr Howell's second point was "equally difficult to understand", he continued, since the corporation had no external financing requirement for 1980-81 and was making a substantial contribution to public funds.

Death grant 'derisory'

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

A private member's Bill to raise the standard rate of death grant from £30 to £190 and then tie it to annual changes in the retail price index is due for second reading on Friday.

Mr Ernest Ross, Labour MP for Dundee West, and sponsor of the Bill, said yesterday that the death grant was derisory, inadequate and a source of severe anxiety to elderly people.

He accused the Government of dithering over a decision while elderly people were going without proper food and warmth because they were afraid that using their savings would mean they would be buried in a pauper's grave.

A decision on increasing the death grant, which was last

raised in 1967, has been expected for some time. The Government has made clear that the case for a higher grant is accepted but that a means test is likely to be introduced when it does go up. That is firmly resisted by Mr Ross and his supporters in the Dignity in Death Alliance, a coalition of nearly forty organisations.

Mr David Hobman, chairman of the alliance, said yesterday that an official survey suggesting that nine out of ten people could afford to pay for funerals did not reflect the widespread anxiety about funeral costs, particularly among elderly people.

Costs ranged from £350 to 44, proposals to close the department of architecture and cut the school of education for Northern Ireland, to seek EEC aid for the company.

Bleak nights at the opera ahead

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council grant to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, of £9.55m, is an increase of 8.3 per cent, but substantially less than the inflation rate and according to Sir Claus Moser, the opera house chairman, means a bleak future.

The Royal Opera House will have to cut out one new production planned for the coming year, Sir John Tooley, general director, said. Last year it was able to carry forward £700,000 as a result of "being thrifty" and by holding back revivals of *Salomé* and *The Rake's Progress* and substituting cheaper ballet. This year it will have little if anything to carry forward.

Sir John confirmed that the future was "bleak indeed". Wage increases are going to be low and "we shall have to make even greater effort to remain solvent and still retain the programme and levels of performances. The reality is grim."

Mr Trevor Munn, joint artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, said last week that if its grant was increased by less than 30 per cent the company would not be able to continue on its present scale. It is to receive £3m, an increase of 17.6 per cent.

Sir Kenneth Cork, chairman of the Board of Governors of the RSC, said yesterday that the company might carry on this year, but perhaps not next year. "Someone has got to take the responsibility to ensure we get sufficient grant. Then we will survive."

In the immediate future the RSC's programme will remain intact. The company is not complaining of the cost of the move to the Barbican, and acknowledges that for the first three years costs will be less than they were at the Aldwych. It still casts envious eyes on the National Theatre, however, saying it receives only half its grant but does more work in the year and employs fewer people.

UNIVERSITY CUTS

Bristol University's Senate has approved, by 95 votes to 44, proposals to close the department of architecture and cut the school of education by nearly a half.

100 Irish families flee huge land mine

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A hundred families were evacuated from their homes in the border village of Camlough, south Armagh, last night after the discovery of a land mine believed to contain about 600lb of explosives.

They were found packed into three creamery cans on the Camlough to Newtown Hamilton road, 300 yards from the village. The explosives were primed to be detonated and security forces cordoned off the area.

The land mine was also near St Malachy's Primary School and pupils will not be at lessons today while security forces defuse it.

Across the border the Irish police discovered more hidden explosives yesterday after six successive days of arms and ammunition seizures from border dumps.

The latest haul came as a farmer was remanded in custody in Dublin after a weekend of finds which brought the seizures since January to more than 60,000 rounds of ammunition and 10 rifles. Patrick Corrigan, aged 43, of Kilkear, Enniskillen, co Monaghan, in the Republic, was remanded in custody until the end of February on six charges of illegally possessing firearms.

Mr James Mitchell, the Republic's Minister of Justice, congratulated the police for work which "should quieten the repeated and totally wrong allegation from Northern Ireland that the republic is a haven for terrorists". Mr Mitchell estimated that the attempt to defeat terrorism was costing the Republic £100m a year, not including damage done to tourism.

Police in the Republic are reaping the reward in tip-offs of a public backlash against the activities of IRA terrorists after the death of a young man on New Year's Day from wounds received in a "punishment" shooting.

Gabriel Murphy, aged 27, an hotel worker, was shot by a group of masked men at his home near Enniskillen, the location of many of the arms finds. No one has been charged.

The hauls began on January 17, when between 600 and 700 rounds of ammunition were discovered in the Scotsstown area of co Monaghan. The most successful raids have been near Enniskillen, a village three miles from the border.

The seizures are a blow to the Provisional IRA terror campaign.

Mrs Bernadette McAleese, formerly Miss Devlin, is to stand as a candidate in the Dublin North Central constituency of Mr Charles Haughey, leader of Fianna Fail, in the forthcoming general election.

The intervention of the former Westminster MP for mid-Ulster is unlikely to harm Mr Haughey, who polled 17,637 first preference votes last June. That was the highest number recorded for any candidate in the general election.

The list of arms seized recently is as follows:

Jan 17: Scotsstown, co Monaghan, 600-700 rounds.

Jan 28: Scotsstown, ammunition and an Armalite rifle.

Jan 29: Scotsstown area, 450lb of explosive mixture.

Jan 30: Enniskillen, co Monaghan, blast bombs, detonators, gelignite and bomb components, including timing devices.

Jan 31: Dundalk, co Louth, seven primed mortar bombs, 100 rounds of explosive mixture.

Feb 1: Enniskillen, co Monaghan, 500 rounds, seven rifles, a Lee-Enfield and Armalite and various ingredients for making explosives.

Feb 1: near Clones, on the Monaghan-Fermanagh border, a booby-trap point with wires leading to a firing point south of the border.

Feb 1: Enniskillen, about 200ft of cortex used to detonate explosives.

Feb 1: Dundalk, seven primed rockets.

Feb 2: Enniskillen, 30lb of explosives.

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DE LOREAN CRISIS 'RISK TO UK JOBS'

Mr Don Concannon, Labour spokesman on Northern Ireland, said last night that the RSC's programme of active development of BNOC's offshore interests.

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A Bow Street policeman found picketing peaceful outside the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, yesterday. Members of the orchestra of the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, in evening dress, continued their dispute with the management over their campaign to be treated as an integral part of the company in recognition of their contribution to the ballet's prestige.

Challenges to atomic programme

Nuclear power is too dear, scientists say

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The cheapness of nuclear power, on which the Central Electricity Generating Board has planned to spend more than £15,000m over the next 15 years, was challenged yesterday in the Commons by a group called the Committee for the Study of the Economics of Nuclear Electricity.

The group comprises scientists, economists and environmentalists and includes Sir Kelvin Spencer, who was chief scientist to the former Ministry of Power when the civil nuclear power programme had never been built.

Other members are Professor W. Jeffrey, the mathematician, Mr Colin Sweet, an economist at the Polytechnic of the South Bank, Dr Richard Marshall of Keele University, Mr Michael Prior, an energy consultant, Dr Peter Buxton, founder of *The Ecologist* magazine, and Mr Edward Goldsmith.

They say the figures published by the generating board for electricity costs are wholly misleading because they are biased in favour of nuclear power. The reason lies in the methods used to calculate the cost of nuclear power.

Two issues play an important part in the analysis. One is a matter of accounting techniques. The other is the poorer than expected performance of nuclear power stations.

Professor Jeffery says the justification for the nuclear programme has been done on a premature decommissioning of coal-fired stations to be halted.

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On that basis, it is argued, future nuclear plant will have a generating cost of 3.27p/kWh, against 2.34p/kWh for new coal-fired plant. The recommendations also call for a large programme of prematurely decommissioning coal-fired stations to be halted.

Minister backs down on rate grant penalties

By David Walker

The Government yesterday admitted another in its attempts to strengthen control over council spending. Powers will not be sought to reduce the rate support grant for high-spending councils after their budgets and rate levies have been set.

Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, said there would be no additional grant reductions for councils failing to meet their spending targets in 1982-83. Councils already know they will lose grants if they spend above a certain level, according to a published statement.

Mr King promised to bring in amendments to clause four of the Local Government Finance (No 2) Bill, now in its committee stage, to ensure that in future any grant penalties will be published well before the beginning of the financial year.

Mr King's amendments are likely to be broadly along lines agreed by the Conservative leaders of the county and district council associations.

Ministers are understood to be pressing councillors and Conservative backbenchers to accept a scheme that would leave the Government with reserve powers to adjust the rate support grant to penalise high-spending councils. These would be known as "differential clawback", a different animal from the "differential holdback", which Mr King says he has now dropped.

The Government's announcement ensures that the controversial Bill will proceed at least a little farther. Mr Robin Squire, Conservative MP for Havering Hornchurch, and one of the Government's majority of two in committee, praised "a very significant step" towards improved relations between central and local government.

A preliminary reaction from the Association of County Councils was: "We appear to have won the battle". The association has accepted the main part of the

County	Increase over average 1981-82 annual plan present %	Increase over average 1981-82 annual plan present %
England	1	5.6
Cambridgeshire	5.2	
Leicester	4.9	
Sussex	3.7	
North Yorks	3.6	
East Yorks	3.5	
West Yorks	3.5	
West Mids	3.4	
Central	3.4	
East Mids	3.4	
West Lancs	3.4	
North Lancs	3.4	
North East	3.4	
West Yorks	3.4	
Wales	3.4	
London	3.4	
Greater London	3.4	
Scotland	3.4	
Isle of Man	3.4	
Channel Islands	3.4	
Other	3.4	
Total	3.4	5.6
Devon	3.4	5.6
Other parts control	3.4	5.6

—Labour Party control

Meeting on new TV channel schedules

By Kenneth Gosling

Independent television producers, some of whom are unhappy about the lack of information concerning the schedules of Channel Four, are to air their views at a meeting with officials of the channel in London today.

Mr Michael Peacock, chairman of the Independent Producers Association (IPPA), said yesterday that he hoped the meeting would provide more information, adding: "In the course of the next few weeks Channel Four will be making a series of announcements to clear up those matters that are unknown at the moment about their plans.

"It could well be that aspects of these announcements may not please some independents."

Mr Peacock, who heads a company making programmes for the channel, said: "Our purpose is to maintain a constructive dialogue between representatives of IPPA and Channel Four and we have had a whole series of meetings trying to persuade the channel that their terms of trade, published early last month, should reflect certain anxieties and considerations.

"In some measure we have succeeded but in others we have been left feeling pretty unhappy."

Time would show who was right, he said. Today's meeting would be the first time the association's membership had had an opportunity to be heard on a number of issues. Some of them, he said, had felt hard done by, but that was bound to happen.

"It is early days yet and there are many matters that will become clear only as we get to know more about the way Channel Four is building its schedule."

An early draft of the schedule is published in the current edition of Broadcast magazine. Channel Four officials emphasize that this is by no means the final shape of programming as it will appear from next November's opening.

However, it shows the likely mix, with programmes beginning at 5.15 pm from Mondays to Fridays and at 2 pm at weekends. Early evenings contain a strong element of education and information as well as ethnic programmes.

From about 9 pm the entertainment content broadens out into films, comedy programmes, drama and music. On Fridays and Saturdays a feature film is scheduled to begin at midnight.

The preliminary schedule includes only two hours of sport, from 6.30 to 7.30 on Sunday evenings and from 8 to 9 pm on Mondays, neither of which would put it into conflict with the other channels.

BBC-made Open University

programmes may be shown on Channel Four. Discussions are taking place between the OU and the Channel Four company for space to be found on the channel as early evening OU programmes disappear from BBC2.

Actress and Actor of 1981



Film stars of the year: Dee Reepburn, who appeared in "Gregory's Girl", and Jeremy Irons, "The French Lieutenant's Woman" after receiving their awards for Actress and Actor of 1981, presented by the Variety Club of Great Britain yesterday.

'Stiffen safety fines'

By Frances Gibb

Magistrates have been urged to fine companies more heavily for breaches of health and safety regulations after complaints by the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat) that the level of fines is "paltry".

A survey in the current issue of *The Magistrate*, the journal of the Magistrates' Association, shows that the average fine imposed on companies for breaches of the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974, over four successive years was between 10 and 16 per cent of the maximum fine.

In 1979 the average fine imposed was £165.90, in 1978 £142.41 and in 1977 £106.69; with all those years the maximum fine was £1,000. In 1976, when the maximum was £400, the average imposed was £99.42.

According to the journal, Lord Hailsham, of St Maryle



Miss Sally Harwood, a secretary, displaying some of the approved souvenirs yesterday.

Value and taste the aim for papal souvenirs

The Roman Catholic Church yesterday unveiled official souvenirs for the Pope's visit to Britain from May 28 to June 2, which it hopes will help to offset the estimated £16m cost of the trip (John Witherow writes).

Ranging from a £1,000 gold watch to balloons, car stickers, badges and plastic carrier bags costing a few pence, the items have all been approved as being tasteful and good value. That means they can bear the official emblem a cross inset with the papal keys, and can be promoted by Roman Catholic churches and shops.

The initial checking of goods was made by International Management Group, the American-based company headed by Mr Mark McCormack which has been called in by the church to handle the commercial side of the six-day visit in return for a 20 per cent share of the revenue. The company and the church have approved about 200 souvenirs and nine publications and expect to have

endorsed about 300 items before the visit.

The company has rejected some products thought inappropriate, such as a screwdriver adorned with the Pope's portrait, and has sought to encourage firms employing handicapped craftsmen. As a result disabled people in Sussex are making clocks and wall plaques and a company in the Midlands which employs blind people is producing papal badges. Items on display yesterday included candles, tea towels, urns, pens, ties, T-shirts, plastic flags, bronze busts, coasters and official portraits.

Most bear a portrait of the Pope. Each approved manufacturer will pay a royalty to Papal Visits Ltd to meet the cost of staging open-air Masses and for transport of the papal entourage.

Mr Ralph Brown, coordinator of the visit, said they had decided to go ahead with promoting the souvenirs after they were besieged with requests from companies for

official endorsement. "One of the things we did not want to do was to be associated with things we did not like. The only way we could do that was by indicating there were things we did like", he said.

A warm and friendly welcome to the Pope has been urged by the Evangelical Alliance, a body which represents a substantial part of the Conservative evangelical tradition in Britain (Clifford Longley writes). Evangelicals, who have almost universally adopted that name for themselves rather than "Protestant", are asked by the alliance not to engage in "negative counter-demonstrations" during the visit. They should treat Roman Catholics with "love, respect and courtesy".

Organizers of the Pope's visit have withdrawn an application to fell 59 trees in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, where the Pope is due to celebrate Mass on June 1. The aim was to give people a clearer view, but it led to protests

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Skinhead 'wolves' sentenced

Judge Ward, sitting at Southend Crown Court yesterday, described an incident when four Indians were chased by 40 skinheads as "a hideous, monstrous, cowardly and racist attack by a pack of wolves". (Our Southend Correspondent writes.)

A schoolboy aged 14, and Nathan Pritchard, aged 17, unemployed, of Surrey Road, Bletchley, were both given four years' detention after pleading guilty to stabbing an Indian man in the chest.

Mr Guy Whithorn, for the prosecution, said that on the Spring Bank holiday at the Indians walked home from work they were confronted by the skinhead youths, screaming "Seig Heil". They were chased by the mob, but the chief, Mr Abdul Garni, aged 50, was tripped by the schoolboy. One youth stood on his neck while the others kicked him unconscious and stole the £150 restaurant takings. Mr Garni's injuries included a broken nose, black eyes and bruises all over his body.

Three other youths, all aged 18, who admitted receiving part of the stolen money, were sent to a detention centre and borstal.

Revenge theory over cell fires

Police and prison officials are investigating a series of cell fires in Albany top-security jail, in the Isle of Wight.

Prison officers believe the fire raisers were prisoners angry with fellow inmates who refused to join them in a mass "strike" the previous week when scores of prisoners refused to go to the workshops.

No action over dumped bodies

The Director of Public Prosecutions has recommended that no action be taken over the discovery of two babies' bodies in cardboard boxes at St Woolos Cemetery, Newport, Gwent.

The babies, who died within hours of birth, had been taken to the cemetery from the Royal Gwent Hospital, but were left unburied and discovered among a pile of rubbish two days later.

Dockyard chemicals plea by union

The Ministry of Defence is to be asked for a fuller disclosure of dangerous compounds and chemicals handled at Rosyth dockyard, after the recovery of missing radioactive cobalt there last weekend. It disappeared a year ago inside the top security nuclear dock where Britain's Polaris submarines are refuelled and refitted. The Transport and General Workers' Union is to ask for the details.

106th birthday

Mrs Emma Parkes celebrated her 106th birthday in the Moorlands Home for the Elderly at Bingham, Nottinghamshire, yesterday. Among 100 guests were her son George, aged 83, 16 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Explain Welsh buggering, Whitelaw to be asked

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Tomorrow night, Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, will be asked to explain what two men driving a white estate car, registration ROV 131W, were doing last month outside the public telephone box in the village of Talybarn, Gwynedd.

Mr Moses Edwards and his wife looked out of their sitting room window and saw two men from the car outside the kiosk. When the men drove off, the Edwards went to the kiosk and removed from it a small radio transmitter, which had been stuck behind the telephone. As they walked back to their home the estate car returned, mounted the pavement to block their path and the two men jumped out and forcibly demanded the return of the device.

He said the detectives gave him cannabis from a plant they were growing on a window ledge at Hull central police station.

"I tried to sell the cannabis on three of four occasions but was not successful because the people there just did not smoke", he said.

Atkins said he had to get something because it was Davidson's first time and he wanted to make a good impression.

Mr Dunsmore said that towards the end of the concert he came across a young man and asked him if he smoked. "He said he had never tried it. I said 'Here, try a piece'. He looked at it and said 'Thanks'. I walked away and nodded to Atkins and Davidson, who grabbed him".

The man, Mr John Walker, a bus driver from Saltburn, was later fined for possessing the drug by Bridlington magistrates, although he denied the offence.

Mr Dunsmore said Constable Davidson later gave him cannabis and LSD for his work.

Earlier Mr Dunsmore told the court that Constable Atkins and another officer had "set him up" to make him become an informer.

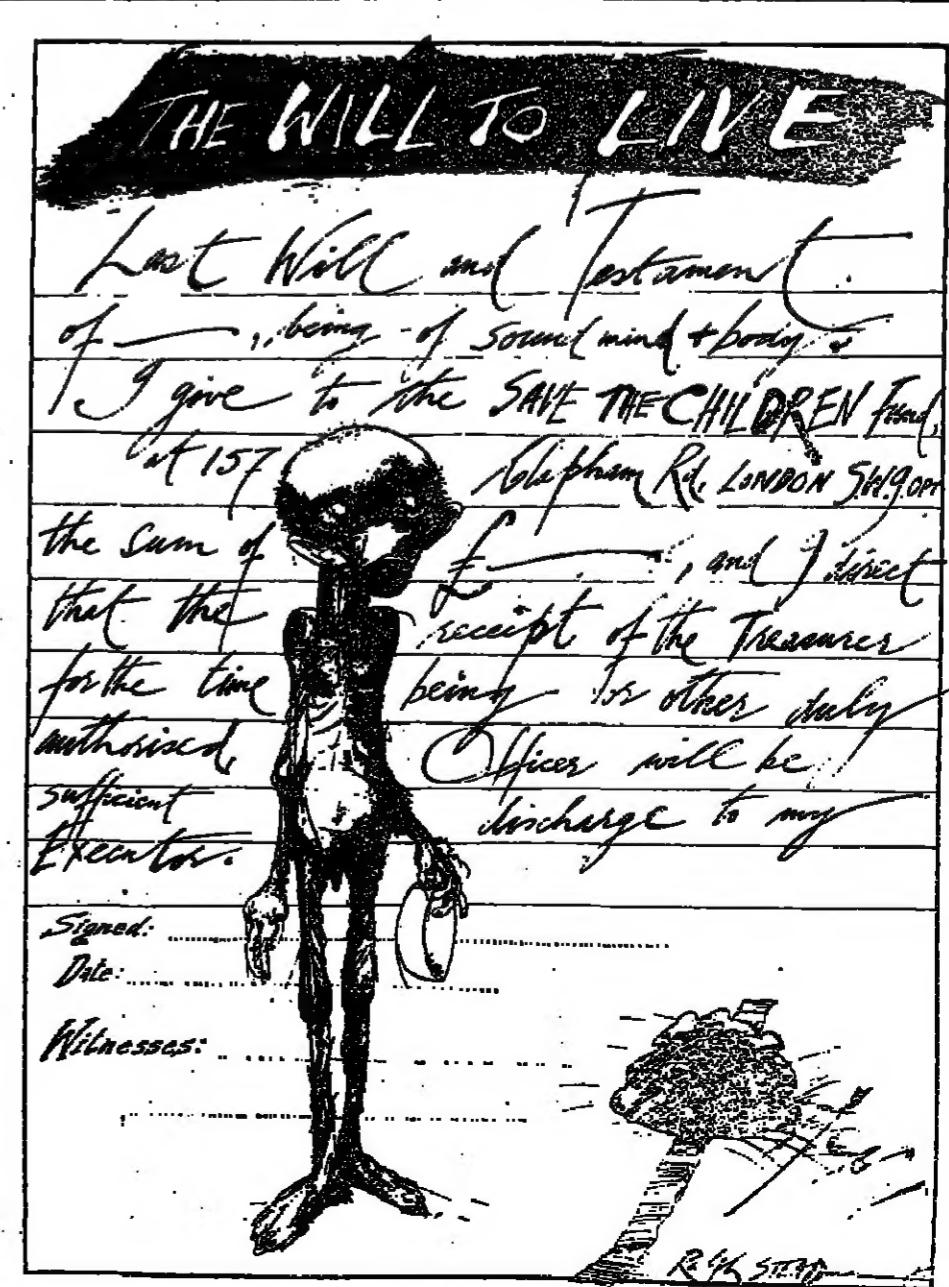
He said Constable Atkins and Det Constable Andrew Ablatt had planted hashish in his top pocket in a Hull public house and asked him to "do them a favour".

"Atkins wanted me to inform on anyone dealing in cannabis so that he could make the arrest. I did not want anything to do with it, but it was that or getting nicked for possessing cannabis", he said.

Five drug squad detectives were suspended from duty in November 1979, after allegations by Mr Dunsmore, who had been arrested for burglary. He claims the officers paid him for information leading to drug convictions with confiscated cannabis, LSD, heroin and cocaine kept at the police station.

The five detectives deny 10 drug-related offences. The accused are Det Constable Michael Lord, aged 44; Det Constable Philip Raby, aged 31; Constable Davidson, aged 31; Constable Atkins, aged 26, and Constable Ablatt, aged 33.

The trial continues today.



Your legacy to Save the Children could give a child in this country or the third world their only chance. If you would like to know more about our work for children at home and overseas write to Peter Lindsey at the address below.

Save the Children
The Save the Children Fund, 157 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PT

Government will double number of consultants

By Annabel Ferriman Health Services Correspondent

More patients will be seen by hospital consultants in future after the Government's decision yesterday to double the number of consultants by the 1980s, as recommended in the Short Report on medical education.

The report, published last October, recommended fewer junior doctor posts and more hospital consultants. As junior doctor posts become empty, some will be regraded into consultant posts.

There are now about 14,000 consultants in Britain and 26,000 junior hospital doctors. The Government wants two consultants for every junior doctor.

Its immediate aim is a one-to-one ratio by 1988 and to that end the Government has asked regional health authorities to freeze all senior house officer posts.

In its reply to the report, produced by the Social Services Committee chaired by Mrs Renée Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton North-East, the Government says it is its policy to change the balance between senior and junior staff, partly because patient care is best provided by fully trained doctors and because doctors should not remain in training longer than necessary.

At present the average medical graduate wishing to pursue a hospital career does not become a consultant before he or she is over 37 and has occupied a junior doctor post for more than 13 years, the report says.

Although it has been government policy to change the balance, the actual achievement of these objec-

Ban on tax cut to save art works expected

By Frances Gibb

The Treasury is expected to reject one of the key proposals of a Commons select committee of MPs for tax concessions designed to prevent the loss of further important works of art abroad.

The proposal was one of several made by the MPs under the chairmanship of Mr Christopher Price, Labour member for Lewisham, West, in a report on tax rules governing works of art published last April.

The Government is due to respond to the report shortly. But fears are growing in the art world that Treasury officials intend to reject the recommendation that the Capital Transfer Tax concession on the surrender of an art work in lieu of taxes should be raised from 25 to 75 per cent.

Such an increase would encourage private owners to offer their heirlooms to the nation rather than sell them on the open market and to pay their taxes in kind rather than in cash. Much of the money allocated by the Government for operating the system has not been used.

The purchasing power of American museums, which poses a threat to private collections in this country, is well highlighted in an article in *The Burlington Magazine*.

Mr Edmund Pillsbury, director of the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, announces acquisitions in the past year by the museum of more than a dozen European paintings estimated to be worth \$15m (£8m).

The acquisitions, several of which are published in the article for the first time, include works by Velazquez, Manet, Carracci, Stubbs, Claude and Sicker and span five centuries.

Among the masterpieces are "The Butcher Shop", by Carracci, formerly in the collection of Lord Aberdeen; hitherto unpublished work by the rare Neapolitan master, Bernardo Cavallino, recently brought to light on the London art market, and a version of "Ennui", by Walter Sickert, in the Tate Gallery.

There is also an important, little-known painted sketch by Benjamin West of the debate in Parliament on the future of the American colonies when William Pitt entered on crutches and fainted.

On West's death it went to a Welsh collector, in whose family it remained until the late 1970s.

The museum is a small example of the increasing wealth of foreign museums which the MPs were aiming to counteract. The biggest threat comes from the J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, which has capital of \$1.206m and a yearly income of \$55m.

After more than five years of legal wrangles, the Getty legacy is expected to be granted probate soon and these funds will come on to the art market.

DEAD MAN WOULD HAVE DENIED RAPE

From Our Correspondent
Doncaster

Sarjeant's sentence is upheld

By John Chartres

A substantial majority of family doctors in Britain support private medicine and believe it relieves pressure on the National Health Service rather than harming it, according to a survey conducted by the British United Provident Association (Bupa).

The survey results also claim to show that there has been a substantial swing in political opinion among doctors from the Social Democratic Party. It was conducted among 400 GPs in Britain, commissioned by Bupa and conducted by Medical Research Factors Ltd.

One finding was that 83 per cent of GPs believed that more people would see their doctors privately if the cost of drugs was the same for everybody, whether NHS or private patients. Bupa claims that the private sector is supported by 72 per cent of doctors.

The figures published in the survey say that doctors, asked whether they agreed with the existence of private medicine, replied in the following terms: agreed strongly, 33 per cent; agreed, 39 per cent; neither agreed nor disagreed, 15 per cent; disagreed, 7 per cent; disagreed strongly, 5 per cent.

The substantial growth of private hospitals was endorsed by 71 per cent of family doctors, the survey claims, with almost half "very strongly" in favour. The Bupa statement said that many Labour politicians and trade union leaders had claimed that private medicine harmed the health service.

That view, the statement said, had been rejected by doctors, of whom a majority (67 per cent) believed that private treatment relieved the strain on the National Health Service.

The statement also claimed that the result showed that doctors' views were the same as those of the general public, as established by previous independent national opinion polls.

It added that whereas in the last general election 66 per cent of doctors said they had voted Conservative, now 39 per cent say they would support the SDP/Liberal Alliance.

Lawyers seek removal of judge

By Nicholas Timmins

Dunboyne, aged 65, who complained he could not hear Mr Kadri and said Mr Kadri was "extremely rude". The judge provided guidance for the taxiing officer on the way the defence had been conducted, which may result in Mr Kadri's fees being cut.

Mr Kadri accused the Special Patrol Group of being the SAS of the police, and said the defendant, Mr Anthony Amos, aged 20, was kicked and brutalized. Judge Lord Dunboyne, is said to have intervened to say "it does not matter if the accused was maltreated. There are plenty of courses for alleging malpractice against the police. That is not the issue at the moment."

The judge praised police for causing Mr Amos only minor injuries in the struggle to arrest him.

Mr Narayan said yesterday: "From the information that we have received the clashes were largely due to the judge's inability to hear clearly and not Mr Kadri."

The judge said it was irrelevant that the defendant received injuries. That is a monstrous thing to say, and he praised five police officers for fighting off one boy. We consider Mr Kadri conducted the trial as well as he could."

Mr Amos was acquitted of assault on the police, after saying he bit an SPG officer's finger to the bone in self defence. He was convicted of possessing an offensive weapon, a brick, and was sentenced to three months in a detention centre.

During the trial of a black youth arrested during the Brixton riots, he clashed repeatedly with Judge Lord



Taste of freedom: Mr Bulent Ecevit, former Prime Minister of Turkey, leaving an Ankara prison on Monday after serving two months for issuing a press statement.

Banished leader of Copts offers olive branch to Mubarak

From Christopher Walker, Cairo, Feb. 2

The banished spiritual leader of Egypt's minority Coptic community, Pope Shenouda III, has sent a private letter to Copts living in America, urging them to provide a warm welcome for President Hosni Mubarak, who began his first official visit to Washington today.

A copy of the letter, which was published in *The Times* by Mr Muhammad Heikal, the prominent Egyptian journalist who was released from prison on last November.

Dated January 24, handwritten on notepaper embossed with the Coptic seal and headed with a small cross, the letter is regarded as an important gesture of reconciliation to the new Government by the leader of the notorious El Tora security jail on the outskirts of Cairo. He said that the detainees were kept to 10 ft by 12 ft and had one open toilet.

"It was obvious that one aim of the President was to try and humiliate us. For what other reason would you force a man like Fuad Serageddin (the former leader of the now dissolved New Wafid Party, who is 77) to sleep on a stone floor with only one blanket?" Mr Heikal told me. "Our only food was almost too revolting to eat and was pushed at us through the bars."

During his ordeal Mr Heikal, former editor-in-chief of *Al Ahram*, lost 24lb in weight and was kept in a cell with two former members of the Egyptian Parliament and seven members of an extreme Muslim group.

He said that his journalistic instinct helped him to survive by enabling him "to treat everything as a witness and not a victim."

The moderate tone of the letter is seen as evidence that the Government might soon be prepared to lift the order which has kept the Pope under virtual house arrest since he fled his monastery at Wadi Natrun, between Cairo and Alexandria.

Already a number of the coptic churchmen who were among the victims of Sadat's secret purge have been released, as have all the former President's political opponents and many Muslims.

There have been strong hints that more releases can be expected soon.

One Government official told me that special military precautions still in evidence close to many of Cairo's main public buildings are also scheduled to be considerably relaxed.

The detective accused of rape had had a holiday abroad with his alleged victim during a year long relationship, it was disclosed yesterday.

George Hall, aged 35, was due to appear in court yesterday to face a charge of raping and assaulting a police officer, but he was found dead last week at his home with a plastic bag over his head seconds before the house was wrecked by a gas explosion.

His solicitor told magistrates at Doncaster, that Hall had denied the rape charge as the Bench agreed not to proceed with charges of rape and causing actual bodily harm.

Mr Fred Curtis, Hall's solicitor, said Hall was one of the few opportunities he would have to say something on his client's behalf.

"On the instructions I have received from the late George Hall I would have been advising him to enter a plea of not guilty and I believe that he had an excellent chance of successfully defending the rape allegations," he said.

The body of Azaria, who disappeared while on a camping holiday with her parents near the tourist spot of Ayers Rock in Central Australia, has never been found. But her bloodstained jumpsuit was recovered in the outback near the camp site several days after her disappearance.

The original inquest, a year ago, found that Azaria had been killed and dragged away by a dingo. It specifically exonerated Mr Chamberlain, aged 37, and his wife, aged 33, of responsibility for the death.

Mr Chamberlain, said he would not release his full findings so as not to prejudice the Chamberlains' trial.

The case has already attracted huge publicity. He ordered the couple to appear in court on April 19 and allowed them bail of \$45,000 (just under £3,000) each.

Mr David Sturges, counsel assisting the coroner, yesterday called for the two to be sent for trial, saying there was a prima facie case that Mrs Chamberlain cut her daughter's throat and that her husband learnt of this afterwards.

He said a jury could infer that Mrs Chamberlain killed Azaria in the family car, parked near the tent, that the child was buried nearby, then dug up and the clothing removed before the body was disposed of.

A second inquest into the baby's mysterious death was ordered last year after new forensic evidence was given.

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Palestinian autonomy problem for America

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb. 2

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt's visit to Washington this week comes at a time when the United States is still groping for a way to move ahead with the Middle East peace process.

Describing the changed atmosphere in Cairo and all Egypt's other main towns, Mr Heikal said: "For the first time for many years the country feels that it has a President who is talking to them and not through them. The Muslim fundamentalists and the Christian groups are still around, but the tension has vanished. People feel that all the doors which were previously closed to them are now open."

Mr Heikal, who was one of the closest confidantes of President Nasser, spoke of the conditions under which he and other political opponents of Sadat were held in the notorious El Tora security jail on the outskirts of Cairo. He said that the detainees were kept to 10 ft by 12 ft and had one open toilet.

"It was obvious that one aim of the President was to try and humiliate us. For what other reason would you force a man like Fuad Serageddin (the former leader of the now dissolved New Wafid Party, who is 77) to sleep on a stone floor with only one blanket?" Mr Heikal told me. "Our only food was almost too revolting to eat and was pushed at us through the bars."

During his most recent trip to the Middle East, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, attempted with some success to ease the tension which had begun to develop between Israel and Egypt and to reassure them of the United States commitment to Camp David.

Israel and Egypt have also pledged their determination to carry out the agreements which were made in 1978, but the pieces of paper which were signed then are beginning to look frayed round the edges.

For the Americans, the unpredictable behaviour of Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, remains a source of constant concern. They believe actions such as the annexation of the Golan Heights and the establishment of more settlements on the occupied West Bank not only undermine the peace process but make it more difficult for Egypt to continue to be seen as being dealt with.

On the first night of his visit to his office overlooking the Nile, Mr Heikal wrote his recollected conversations on 310 different index cards.

Now free to air his views to foreign reporters, Mr Heikal is not as yet playing any new role in Egyptian politics or journalism. He prefers to describe himself as an observer until he finishes his account of Mr Sadat's last days, provisionally entitled *The Autumn of Fury*.

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Letter from Sylt

Holiday isle under threat from sea

Sylt, with its clifftop lamp-posts and their ornamental globes safely removed and its windows boarded over, is like a ship battened down, tense, for whatever else winter may inflict.

The islanders wonder if the 36-hour gale in November, which pushed the flood tide over the Noesee dyke was only a foretaste of worse to come between now and Easter.

As the west coast along from Wenningstedt so graphically shows, this sliver of land 28 miles long but only 36 square miles overall and less than a mile across in places, is the largest and northernmost of West Germany's North Frisian Islands, is literally a diminishing asset.

The low cliffs of soft red sandstone, moraine and clay, topped by dunes of more recent formation, are being ineluctably eroded by storms and high spring tides, in conjunction with rain and melting snow pouring down from the higher ground. The ragged asphalt edge of the Wenningstedt promenade beyond the safety wall hangs poised to crumble away and follow the black fragments strewn all down the cliff.

The "cafe-dancing" is given maybe five or six years before it shares the same fate as the photo shop that toppled over the encroaching edge on Christmass Eve, 1985. Next on the list is a stately Danish-style house. Heads are shaken at the temerity of building a new complex of holiday homes behind low dunes 100 yds or so from the cliff. They are given a century at the most, changing hands at declining prices long before.

Awareness of the North Sea's constant menace is everywhere. Five centuries ago, a mere instant of geological time, the island was at least twice its present size, a mile further west. Ancient maps show all the North Frisians as part of the

current technique for breaking the full force of the North Sea is emplacing submerged artificial sandbanks out from the Westerland/Wenningstedt area.

But what may eventually be left of Sylt for future generations is less of a current preoccupation, on the whole, than is sustaining the community's defences against the flood of holidaymakers from Easter into September when the car-train services transport thousands of vehicles daily.

"A road along the causeway would be the death of Sylt," says Herr Volker Hoppe, Mayor of

51 dead as US faces new storms

New York.—A new winter storm left 51 dead and thousands stranded in almost 2 ft of snow in the Mid-west. Among the casualties were 15 who died in Michigan, 13 of whom apparently suffered heart attacks while shovelling snow. Two froze to death.

It was expected to be a repeat of the storm that left 51 people dead and thousands stranded in almost 2 ft of snow in the Mid-west. Among the casualties were 15 who died in Michigan, 13 of whom apparently suffered heart attacks while shovelling snow. Two froze to death.

The storm moved into eastern America causing icy floods and bringing snow and freezing rain. Ice chunks and 6 ft of water swirled through the streets of oil city Pennsylvania. In St Louis, the city's worst snowstorm in 70 years left nearly 14 in of snow during the weekend. Arctic winds up to 40 mph whipped Colorado after 10 in of new snow in the high country.

US jet loses live missile

Ramstein, West Germany.—A United States Air Force F-15 fighter lost an air-to-air missile over the Black Forest, and officials warned the public that it could explode if moved.

An Air Force spokesman said that the live Sidewinder missile fell from the jet during combat training on Monday. He also said that the missile probably disintegrated on impact in the hilly, sparsely populated area of south-western Germany.

Waldheim waits for a new job

Vienna.—Dr Kurt Waldheim, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, has rejoined the Austrian Foreign Ministry but the question of precisely what he is to do remains to be decided, ministry sources said.

Speculation has been aroused because of a United Nations ruling which bars a retiring secretary-general from taking a government post in which confidential information he may have acquired could be a source of embarrassment to other countries.

Swedes collect for the forces

Stockholm.—The Swedes, worried that their coastal defence system might not be up to par after a Soviet submarine ran around off the naval command post in Karlskrona last October, have started a collection to help modernize the armed forces. Gifts so far amount to about 200,000 kroner (£18,867). Mr Harry Lind, from Uppland, was thanked by the army after he donated 5,010 kroner from his savings. He was told it would be used to buy a special camera for a coastal helicopter.

The police believe they have identified the place where the terrorists kept Signor Giuseppe Tegliero, the Mestre industrialist, before killing him last summer.

The group which held General Dozier, is thought to have played a part in both the Tegliero and Muro Murders. Hopes are expressed here that the trial of the terrorists caught guarding the general will be held very quickly.

The public prosecutor's office was said to be sifting the voluminous evidence.

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Pym's game: The stakes are raised

by Peter Stothard

Richard Ford on the key issues in Ireland's snap election

Dublin "He's right", shout the campaign posters of Dr Garret Fitzgerald's Fine Gael party, plunged into an unexpected general election after defeat on tough budget proposals aimed at resolving Ireland's economic problems.

But whether the nation's 2.2 million voters, faced probably for the first time in the state's history with an election in which the politicians have few or no sweeteners to offer, accept his "hair shirt remedy" for the crisis is another matter.

Rarely can an administration have entered a campaign with such an inauspicious start. Hit in the solar plexus by the one-vote defeat, wrangling in the small Labour Party on the advisability of fighting on a joint ticket with their coalition partners and then, 48 hours after the budget, dropping the plan to put 18 per cent VAT on clothes and footwear for children under the age of 10.

Though all three major parties were short of funds and policies, it is the coalition who, just seven months after taking office, have the uphill task of fighting on budget proposals that hit almost every sector of society.

"How typical of Ireland to have a government fall over the price of a pint", said one man after the defeat on the proposal to increase beer by 20 pence. But that was only one of many Draconian measures outlined in what Dr Fitzgerald himself admitted was the "toughest budget in the history of the state".

The country seems almost weary at the prospect of another campaign so soon after last year's but, with a degree of energy that would surprise the major parties in England, rival posters were appearing on Dublin's streets within hours of the government's collapse.

And the coalition have recovered quickly from that initial shock and pinned their survival firmly to the budget proposals in the hope that they will get support for being seen to take politically unpopular measures.

Little other strategy was available to them, having made the fatal political miscalculation of not securing the support of independent members on whom they relied for survival. To retreat in any major way from their proposals would have had a devastating effect; their political credibility would have been in tatters.

Credibility, honesty, and responsibility have suddenly become issues in Irish politics during recent months as the nature and scale of the

Who fancies the doctor's hair shirt?

problems facing the country became more apparent. The issues on which Dr Fitzgerald can hope to capitalize and already, as he appeals for support at a time of national emergency, he is saying that honesty as well as the budget, will be a key issue.

"I think the issue in this election is who you trust," he said in opening the Fine Gael-Labour election campaign. There was no alternative to his budget strategy, he added, using a refrain reminiscent of Mrs Thatcher's reply to her critics. Then he proceeded to wrap the issue of the national crisis firmly around himself, saying "politics is not just about staying in power, for the sake of staying in power. There are times of national emergency when the country has to be put first".

Though stressing that the economy is the major issue, Fine Gael strategists will continue to project Dr Fitzgerald as the man the people



Dr Fitzgerald and Charles Haughey: will their contest end in stalemate again?

can trust. There is, they believe, still a lot of goodwill towards him. In contrast, the opposition Fianna Fail are unlikely to be content with a presidential-style election confrontation between Dr Fitzgerald and Mr Charles Haughey, as will hammer away at the budget.

Already Fianna Fail advertisements are appearing in newspapers emphasizing the full increases announced last week and saying "Reject the coalition budget". But if Mr Haughey thinks, as he and his party appeared to do in

the euphoria following the Dail vote, that he can attack the budget and watch the government sink, without putting forward detailed plans, it could prove a grave miscalculation.

If the Irish are united on one thing, it is the realization that the economic boom of the 1970s has ended and the recession is here for some time. The coalition has dismissed what the opposition are offering as "a three-card trick of shifting positions", and will stamp the country demanding details of Mr Haughey's remedies for the economic crisis.

The problems are daunting. Inflation is running at 23 per cent, unemployment stands at 14,000 (11 per cent of the population), and the total national debt is £10,000m. The current account deficit is 7.9 per cent of gross national product and the annual cost of servicing the debt is £10,000m. Total government borrowing is 17 per cent of GNP which Dr Fitzgerald's administration planned to reduce to 14 per cent.

Mr Haughey, whose performance as Prime Minister disappointed many people, opened his campaign with a lacklustre press conference. Despite persistent questioning he did not give details of the alternative budget he would introduce and on the current deficit, which the government aimed to reduce from £130m to £75m this year, he said: "We would aim to phase out the current budget deficit as soon as economic and fiscal conditions allow".

Within 24 hours, Fine Gael's strategy appeared to be working as the opposition were forced on to the defensive, with Mr Haughey's finance spokesman admitting they would have to increase taxes in some areas, and agreeing that Fianna Fail, if elected, would reduce the current deficit to the same level proposed by the coalition.

Fianna Fail's difficulties on economic strategy are a major credibility problem. Only two years ago, Mr Haughey, while Prime Minister, told the country in a

statement

can trust. There is, they believe, still a lot of goodwill towards him. In contrast, the opposition Fianna Fail are unlikely to be content with a presidential-style election confrontation between Dr Fitzgerald and Mr Charles Haughey, as will hammer away at the budget.

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broadcast that it was living beyond its means and domestic affairs had to be put in order. But in the dying days of his premiership, he was denying that there was a crisis and only recently has brought Dr Martin O'Donoghue, the man many blame for the nation's current problems, back into his front-line team after dismissing him when he became Premier.

But for Mr Haughey, the election has come at just the right time. His party, Ireland's natural party of government, has sat uneasily in opposition and his performance as leader has been under growing attack, not only from MP's but from local parties in the country. Only two weeks ago, a Kildare backbencher was expelled from the party for a thinly veiled attack on Mr Haughey's leadership. He has now been welcomed back into the fold and all differences are being submerged as the party begins to campaign.

Though many in Britain think that Northern Ireland is an issue in the republic's politics it is generally not the case and both the party's leaders are united in believing that it will not be a substantial issue during the next three weeks. Whoever wins the Anglo-Irish talks will continue although if Mr Haughey returns to power the constitutional crusade launched by Dr Fitzgerald aimed at making the republic less sectarian will be over.

In any case, the Irish face tough years ahead but in personal terms this election is crucial for the leaders of all three political parties. None of them, if defeated at the polls, would be expected to last long as leader.

Fianna Fail are being tipped as favourites but Dr Fitzgerald has the edge in the leadership stakes, both in popularity and on his record as Premier. His honesty and credibility are high, and he may well return to power on the basis that he has had only seven months in office, the electorate are prepared to give him another chance. His major handicap is Fianna Fail's strength in the country, and the danger that his Labour partners may see their vote and number of seats crumble even further.

What all parties are agreed on is that another result in which no one wins on overall majority would be the worst outcome. However, with the vagaries of proportional representation and the intervention of Provisional Sinn Fein, that may be what the Irish discover on February 19 as the votes are counted.

It is true that commercial television here is much more of a wasteland than it should be, and, one suspects, need be. It is too cowardly in the face of the ratings; it under-

estimates viewers' intelligence and taste; and usually it will not persist in experimenting with a good programme if it is not popular in the first few episodes.

There was a good example earlier this season of how the commercial networks often botch their attempts to produce a programme comparable to one of the better British series. ABC went to the expense and trouble to make a six-hour drama called

Estimates viewers' intelligence and taste; and usually it will not persist in experimenting with a good programme if it is not popular in the first few episodes.

Everything that was brawling, passionate, fierce, brutal in the story of the immigrants was made glossy. Even the building of the railroads across the country, in which the Irish played so large a part, was told with only a few conventional hints of the exploitation, or even of the sheer human cost of the extraordinary endeavour. A continent was conquered by steel rail. It might have been boys playing with Marconi.

This is all the more strange

since even in what is little

more than a prime time soap

opera, *Dallas*, there was

some willingness to come to grips with the harshness of

the kind of lives it depicts.

Yet there is a lesson to be learned even from what has

been unthinkingly

captivated by *Upstairs,* *Downstairs* eight years ago,

fretting for months when

Lady Bellamy went down in

the *Titanic*, they have been

willing to watch almost any

series which Britain sends

over, however remote the

story from their own experience and environment.

Mobil Oil raves in sponsor-

ing *Brideshead*; Alistair Cooke raves in his introduc-

tions to each episode; tele-

vision reviewers rave about

the production, wondering

why the American networks

cannot do the same; and most

of one's friends are delirious

with delight.

One cannot detect more

than a little snobbery in the

response. There is a middle-

brow snobbery in America

that either openly or

covertly likes nothing better

than a good story about an

aristocratic family with a

name like Flyte. If one of the

characters is also called

Sebastian, that goes down all

the better. If another is called

Antonia Blanche, that

does no harm, either.

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This is all the more strange

since even in what is little



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

WHO GUARD THE GUARDS?

The Treasury's skill at massaging numbers to suit any current expediency has long drawn the admiration of administrators, politicians and commentators alike. Rarely has it been more remarkably demonstrated than in its official submission to the Megaw Inquiry into Civil Service pay which has so far curiously escaped commentary.

Whatever its prime objective, one consequence of the Treasury's submission is to lay the arithmetical and philosophical foundations for the largest possible pay increase for civil servants, including those employed at the Treasury. Two obstacles stand in their way. First is the 4% pay target which the Treasury ministers announced at the start of this pay round. That, presumably, can be left to ministers themselves to explain away, if and when they concede. Second, and potentially more difficult, is the system of cash limits which many among a naive public take to be the bedrock of the Government's approach to public sector pay. The great contribution of the Treasury's submission is that it explains how the cash limit system can in fact be suspended in the particular case of the civil servants themselves who administer it. This explanation will be especially welcomed by the various other groups of public sector workers who have so far been told during wage negotiations that there is only a finite amount of money in the public kitty and that therefore their unions must accept the painful trade-off of job cuts for pay increases.

The civil service has wriggled out of this corset in two stages. During last year's pay dispute they shrewdly pressed Lord Soames, then the Minister responsible, and

he conceded that negotiations this time would not automatically be restricted from the beginning by a predetermined cash limit. That gave them a little more elbow room, though the Government then clearly reserved the right still to impose a limit such as 4 per cent in the national interest. The Treasury paper to Megaw now goes much further. While describing a settlement in excess of financial provisions as 'hypothetical' it spells out with commendable candour exactly how it and its civil service colleagues would, and presumably will, evade its own cash limit system: 'The relevant cash limits can be increased by supplementary estimates presented to Parliament after the beginning of the financial year. The presumption would be that any increases in cash limits would be charged to the contingency reserve, and would not therefore add to the planned total of public expenditure for the year'.

This statement is of considerable significance. It announces that the contingency reserve, which was introduced and has normally been used for such genuine emergencies as British Leyland and British Steel or for new policy initiatives during a financial year, is now in fact available to be raided to boost public sector pay. The Treasury may feel that this is not a great danger if the intention is that only civil servants will have access to the coffers. But it is not a reassuring principle that there is one law for the authors of the cash limit system and quite another for everyone else. In any case it is not clear that everyone else will or should accept this. Nurses, teachers, doctors, power workers who

have been told in the past, and are now being told again, that the resources are finite, will now know that this is not true. They will all now know that they can strike for an extra slice of the contingency reserve — which next year will be around £3 billion. Once that game begins there is no reason why most or all of the reserve should not be grabbed for public sector pay — which would lead to a further deplorable distortion in the balance between current and capital expenditure.

There is absolutely no reason, apart from their privileged role in drafting and administering the relevant policies, why civil servants should enjoy privileged exemption from cash limits and privileged access to the contingency reserve. They already enjoy other privileges which workers in private industry and services have reason to envy. Over the past six years the pay for manual workers in national government service has increased substantially more than, and for non-manual a little more than, the average for the economy as a whole. As for unemployment, since Mrs Thatcher took office the number of jobs in public administration and defence has fallen by only 2½ per cent while it has fallen by 8 per cent in the economy as a whole.

The Chancellor presumably accepts his department's view that the 4 per cent pay target has been abandoned, that the contingency reserve is available to finance excessive public service pay settlements, and that civil servants are exempt from the system of cash limits which they administer. If not he should say so, inside his department and in public, and quickly.

DO-IT-YOURSELF DEVOLUTION

Reticence usually descends on the Northern Ireland office when it has an initiative in the oven. This time it is more like a cookery class. The ingredients are laid out, their properties discussed, the mixture tasted. The only reason for some uncertainty remaining about the dish is that the cooks are making up the recipe as they go along.

The general idea is that the province will be offered rolling, or do-it-yourself, devolution. The idea was invented back in Mr Humphrey Atkins's days by Dr Brian Mawhinney, an Ulsterman who is Conservative member of Parliament for Peterborough. Its theoretical merits are, first, that it does not require agreement of the parties to a cut-and-dried scheme of provincial government as a pre-condition for anything happening at all; and second, it would not necessarily be a total write-off (like the 1974 executive) if it met an accident and one of the co-drivers pulled out. At one stage the word "unboycottable" could be heard. But that temptation to fate has been dropped. The only sense in which anything is unboycottable in Ireland is the sense in which the Titanic was unsinkable.

As a way of getting something going, rolling devolution has a claim to be tried, the stationary sort having several times failed to get itself established. First of all there is an elected assembly, confined to deliberation and criticism. Power, executive and legislative, will be available from an à-la-carte menu, always provided that a sufficient measure of cross-community agreement is evident in the demand for each helping. In previous post-Stormont plans for devolution the test for this measure of agreement has been in the mind of the Secretary of State ("If it appears to the Secretary of State ... that a Northern Ireland Executive can be formed which, having regard to the support it commands ... is likely to be widely accepted throughout the community") — Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973. This time Mr Prior is looking for a formula, a weighted majority within the assembly, such as to satisfy two conditions: the hurdle must be high enough to preclude an all-Protestant majority walking off with the prize, and not so high as to give one faction a permanent veto on movement.

It could be hard enough to hit on that magic number

when the deputies are sitting in their places, let alone before they are elected. But if it can be found, it has the large advantage of allowing the parties as represented in the assembly to determine among themselves the pace and mode of provincial self-government. And so it is hoped, once the first dose of power is taken, addiction will follow and the price for larger doses, which is some sort of coalitionism, will be forthcoming.

Other associated ideas have come to the surface. One was to ease transition from the merely consultative to the executive phase by having the Secretary of State, as "chief executive" in the province, appoint members of the assembly or other Ulster worthies to executive posts in his entourage, junior ministers in fact. That has probably fallen down for constitutional reasons. Unless Parliament had already transferred executive responsibility to provincial shoulders it would not look kindly on the exercise of executive authority at the political level by persons who were not answerable to it.

One odd idea which floated in the press at the weekend is the restoration of the governorship of Northern Ireland, meant presumably as a sweetener for unionists. It is unlikely to be pursued at this stage. The office, representative of the monarchy, was popular with unionists, particularly its last incumbent Lord Grey of Naunton. But that was as part of the whole panoply of Stormont. Re-emergence of a governor now, as well as bruising to republicans, would be no more likely to reassure unionists than to put them in mind of one of the latter-day functions of governors, which is to prepare for the day when lesser royalty arrives to haul down the flag.

What reason is there to hope that Mr Prior will be no more successful than his predecessors? One is the shadow of the general election in the rear. Mr Haughey, the bookies' favourite, writes off in advance any proposals for running Northern Ireland that are internal to the province and are not in the context of high unity. The leaders of the SDLP in Northern Ireland are their own men, but the attitude of Dublin is one of the factors shaping their policies. A Fianna Fail government there would have a negative influence.

And then there is the fundamental difficulty that does not change. Coalition, partnership, power sharing, whatever name is given to it, is called upon to bridge the primary political divide, the deepest of them all, a contradiction of allegiances. When the identity of a society is split, when there are two mutually exclusive and equally passionate answers to the question, 'With whom do we belong?', when the issue is carried into a campaign of naked violence directed against the institutions of the state, and when external influences are directed towards undermining the status quo, no one should be surprised, still less morally contemptuous, if the elected representatives of the two incompatible allegiances stay away from forming a political alliance.

His aim is reportedly to compile a computerized list of like-minded extremists.

While the *Spectator* is always reluctant to turn away advertising revenue (and even has in the past accepted small ads from Mr Irving offering free copies of features produced by his *Focal Point* magazine), we have rejected his latest advertisement. Not only is he a professed enemy of right-wing groups for their current mailing lists.

path with Mr Irving's objectives; we also doubt whether the *Spectator* is read by the "branch secretaries" he is hoping to reach.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER CHANCELLOR,
Editor,
Spectator,
56 Doughty Street, WC1
February 2

Battle over level of air fares

From Lady Burton of Coventry

Sir, At last we seem to have reached the stage when it is accepted that air fares in Europe are too high. But have we reached the next position, when airlines, governments and government organizations are willing to look at the reasons? I emphasize "willing".

Over past years when we have raised this matter we have always met with the response that (a) the fares were not too high; (b) comparisons with other countries or with the United States were not valid because conditions were different; (c) it was not possible to reach agreement.

There is no doubt that scheduled air fares are arranged between airlines and governments. In other words, governments, airlines and IATA (International Air Transport Association) are indistinguishable. Only the air traveller, the consumer, and the would-be consumer is excluded. National airlines' spheres of influence are maintained to the detriment of healthy competition, service to the consumer, and an economical fares structure.

Agreements between most countries, except for those in the United States of America and in some cases between the United Kingdom and France, provide for only one national carrier from each country. In no case within Europe is there open entry to an international route, and competition is frequently limited to the two national carriers. Competition on fares is restricted in many bilateral agreements.

We are now informed that the Government is to support the argument at the European Court of Justice put forward by Lord Bethell but that British Airways is in opposition. This seems unfortunate.

Surely there must be more scope for more competition and lower fares in Europe without going to the extreme of the United States domestic deregulation. Security charges, landing fees, air traffic control are items that come immediately to mind.

Mr Roy Wattis (chief executive of British Airways) holds office this year as chairman of the Association of European Airlines: perhaps he and Lord Bethell together could be the

catalyst in this saga which has gone on for far too long.

Yours faithfully,
BURTON OF COVENTRY,
House of Lords,
February 1.

From Mr Peter Martin

Sir, Neither Michael Baily's article on air fares (February 1) nor your leader recommending the formulation of a positive and distinctively European policy for air transport touch on the issue which is central to the whole debate.

At the risk of stating what is perhaps blindingly obvious to many, may I remind you that article 1 of the Chicago Convention, 1944, provides that the contracting states recognize that every state has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory. It is this principle of sovereignty, which allows states to regard traffic rights as a precious national asset to be exchanged only against equality of opportunity and, so far as possible, equality of benefits. Unless and until the principle of airspace sovereignty can be broken down, by acceptance or agreement, there can be no real hope of lowering European air fares by turning Europe into the single market which the United States is for domestic air transport purposes.

There can be little doubt that the rules of competition of the Treaty of Rome appear to support the idea that bilateral fares and rates fixing between states is contrary to the spirit, if not the letter, of article 85, but what is not clear is whether the provisions of the Treaty of Rome in this context override the principle established by article 1 of the Chicago Convention. It is this conflict that must be resolved before any progress can be made.

As travellers, all of us want lower air fares, and these particularly in Europe. Lord Bethell is a Hampden we should support, but I suspect that he is trying to plough his furrow with a trowel.

Yours truly,
PETER MARTIN,
As from: Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
February 1.

Lloyd's 'self-denying ordinance'

From Sir Philip de Zulueta

Sir, As a member of Lloyd's and former chairman of a holding company owning a Lloyd's broker I am distressed and surprised by the controversy which seems to have arisen concerning the so-called immunity clause in the Lloyd's Bill being discussed in the House of Commons on February 3.

Some people seem to look at Lloyd's as if it were the Stock Exchange, equating the underwriting names with investors on the stock market and Lloyd's brokers and underwriters with stockbrokers and jobbers. Others seem to assume that the Committee of Lloyd's resembles a professional regulatory body like the Bar Council or the Law Society.

These are quite misleading analogies. The members of Lloyd's are, collectively, the partners in the society, but expressly undertake the risk of loss "each for his own part and not one for another". In so far as individuals succeed in making claims against the society all the members have to pay. The committee are simply elected agents of the society and have no funds separate from those of the members, i.e., the society as a whole.

The Lloyd's Bill does not attempt to avoid self-regulation; indeed the main object of the Bill is to modernise and strengthen the powers of the committee. But without the so-called immunity clause the danger is that the whole society could be harmed, particularly overseas, by individual members taking legal action against the society as a whole.

The overwhelming majority of members have accepted this point and agreed the clause. I hope that Parliament will not refuse to sanction this self-denying ordinance desired by the bulk of the members of a private, albeit nationally important, institution.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP DE ZULUETA,
3 Fredericks Place,
Old Jewry, EC2.
February 2.

Gas sources for Europe

From Mr John Purvis, MEP for Mid Scotland and Fife (Conservative)

Sir, Your editorial, "Tied in to Siberia" (January 26), is so right. It is the lack of a concerted European policy regarding energy, and gas in particular, that has made it necessary for Germany, France, Italy and Benelux to turn to Siberia and expose themselves to the risk of over-dependence on the USSR. The United Kingdom's aloofness is a contributory factor which could have long-term strategic repercussions.

The rational arrangement would be a European gas grid fed by gas from the northern North Sea, both Norwegian and British, the USSR and North Africa. The southern North Sea fields, both Dutch and British, could act as a reservoir. These fields produce "dry gas" (i.e., without oil) and can be replenished from the other sources so as to provide a seasonal and long-term buffer

reserve.

By diversifying the sources of supply and ensuring a substantial buffer stock in the southern North Sea, the exposure to pressure from any one supplier is greatly diminished.

While Britain happily exports oil at world prices, she has not only insisted that all British-sec-

tor gas should be landed in the UK, but that it must be sold to the British Gas Corporation as a monopoly purchaser. The result has been little incentive to invest in exploiting gas reserves in the North Sea and it has discouraged the Norwegians from cooperating. Now it is forcing continental western Europe to look to Russia for its gas supplies.

On the face of it, Britain can say "we're all right, Jack", but the strategic dependence of continental Europe on the USSR for gas, the possible differentials in gas prices that could open up and, in the end, even a risk of gas shortage in the UK, could well rebound to Britain's disadvantage. And without Norwegian gas the scope for on-shore petrochemical industries in the UK is reduced.

While the UK Government moves towards breaking BG's monopoly, it should also open the export (and import) gates and show willingness to work with its EEC partners on gas policy if it is seriously concerned for the long-term assurance of gas and chemical feedstock supplies in Britain, the security of western Europe and the real meaning of European Community.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN PURVIS,
Gilmerton House,
Dunbar,
St. Andrew's, Fife.

unions and their members would be much more likely to be harnessed if it was plain that their members, too, would feel the immediate consequences of Aslef's action.

Like *The Times*, the EEC strongly regrets the omission from the Bill of this lay-off provision. We certainly do not lightly advocate this provision, but it is necessary to supply a remedy proportionate to the abuse. And, as you correctly point out in your leader of January 23, such a provision would do much to restore the balance of industrial power in disputes where small groups of workers are strategically placed to bring large organizations to a halt. We urge the Government to supply this necessary remedy.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ANTHONY FRODSHAM,
Engineering Employers' Federation,
Broadway House,
Fonthill Street, SW1.

February 2.

Nothing less than the future scope and quality of the country's mapping service is at stake. We urge the Government to reconsider its proposals.

Yours faithfully,

ROLAND WADE,

JOHN HUNT,

E. W. HIBBERD,

JOHN PARFITT,

Council for the Protection of Rural England,

4 Hobart Place, SW1.

The scope of that contract would define the level of the Exchequer's support to the survey services remaining outside the contract would be left to commercial or exclusively on their commercial merits. Many OS services should be judged on social rather than commercial criteria. They would undoubtedly suffer if they were excluded from the contract.

Nothing less than the future scope and quality of the country's mapping service is at stake. We urge the Government to reconsider its proposals.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES THOMAS,

Institute of Cornish Studies,

University of Exeter.

January 28.

First, it is incomprehensible how the buyer's premium could be "essentially a shoddy means of making the vendor believe that the auctioneer is taking a smaller cut on the sale of his goods than is in fact the case". How could the vendor possibly be ignorant of the parts and total of the commissions?

Second, members of my family, friends and associates of mine who have been long-standing buyers at Christie's and Sotheby Parkes' Berney in New York, assure me that there has been precious little criticism of the addition of a buyer's premium at the New York auction houses. The raising and lowering of commissions is a part of doing business in a free enterprise system, something that a less free enterprise system might do well to contemplate. To say as your editorial did that the buyer's premium is "a stain, even if a slight one, on Britain's reputation for fair dealing that they forced the charge on America" is met with disbelief from this side of the Atlantic.

I regret to conclude that the degree of slant against the auctioneers exhibited by London newspapers is such that it may be a "stain, even if a slight one" on the reputation for fair play enjoyed by London journalism.

Yours sincerely,

E. B. LEISENBERG,

2500 Fidelity Building,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

United States.

January 22.

I see no reason to doubt Menella's word, supported by her sisters, Violet, Lucy and Gladys, whose friendship I valued greatly and retained until the end of their lives, visiting them frequently at Leamington, and subsequently at Wantage.

Yours truly,

ROGER LANCELYN GREEN

Poulton Hall,

</div



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 2: The Prince of Wales this morning opened the Crafts Council Gallery and Information Centre at 12 Waterloo Place, SW1.

Major John Winter was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, President, this evening gave a Reception for The Prince's Trust Advisory Council at Buckingham Palace.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, The British Film Institute, accompanied by The Princess of

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. L. Buckley and Miss J. M. Johnston

The engagement is announced between Norman, elder son of Mr and Mrs Norman T. Buckley, Shirenewton, New South Wales, and Linda, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Duncan Johnston, of London, SW10.

Mr A. C. M. Chittenden and Miss R. L. Collison

The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of the late Mr N. G. Chittenden and Mrs Nigel Martin, of Edgecombe, Abinger Common, Surrey, and Anna, daughter of Lord Wakefield of Kendal, His Honour Sir Captain Alford Sir Hugh Wakefield, Rosedene Hurley, Professor F. A. C. S. Collison, of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, and Mr D. T. E. Gibson and Mr P. S. Turner.

Mr R. C. Cummins and Dr A. R. E. Lee

The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs R. C. Cummins, F.R.C.O.G., and Anna, daughter of Dr E. Stanley Lee, M.S. F.R.C.S., and Mrs Lee, of Benenden, Kent.

Mr A. D. K. Wood and Mrs A. E. Colchin

The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. D. K. Wood, and Mrs E. M. Wood, of Lavenham, Suffolk, and Anna, twin daughters of Mr and Mrs R. Gilmour, of Park Farm, Old Buckenham, Norfolk.

Mr F. J. F. M. Dymoke and Miss C. J. P. Baker

The engagement is announced between Francis, eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs John Dymoke, of Scrivelsby Court, Lincolnshire, and Rosalie, daughter of Major and Mrs Anthony Goldingham, of Anglesbury Grange, Uley, Gloucestershire.

Cancer victim graduates from Open University

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

A cancer victim who was once given only two years to live and a former prison officer who left school without any O or A-levels are among 6,000 mature students who graduated from the Open University this year.

Mr Christopher Knight, aged 44, of Barnham, Buckinghamshire, who had cancer after leaving prison, graduated by the Open University (OU). After many spells in hospital, a period of blindness, surgery, radiotherapy, and "tremendous help" from OU counsellors he pulled through, however, got his degree and now works as a post-design service engineer with Thorn-EMI.

Mr John Cochrane, aged 31, of Woodley, Berkshire, left school with no GCE qualifications and realized he was good at mathematics only when he started his OU studies, he says. He attributes his success in changing career from prison officer to systems analyst to his OU studies.

Mr Knight and Mr Cochrane were in London this week to attend a press conference called by the OU to announce this year's successes, which bring the grand total of OU graduates since 1972, the first year of graduation, to more than 51,000.

Dr John Horlock, the OU's vice-chairman, said that the university now has 62,000 undergraduate students, plus 25,000 students on continuing education courses and a further 5,000 managers and engineers on the university's special microprocessor courses, bringing the total student enrolment to more than 81,000.

Of this year's graduates, 15 per cent were drawn from manual and routine non-manual occupations, double the proportion in 1975. Nearly a third of this year's applicants are from the working class.

About a quarter of this year's graduates have entry qualifications of less than two A-levels, the normal requirement for the conventional university. About one in ten had left school at 15, and 4 per cent had no educational qualifications at all. Nearly 40 per cent of this year's applicants had no A-level qualifications.

Latest wills

£36,828 residue for home help

Mr Albert Henry Lazarus, of Rochester, an electrical charge-hand, left estate valued at £37,078 net, and personal effects of £250 to his widow, Mrs Morris Bourner, his home help, who visited him each day for the six years that he was a housebound invalid.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Grimsdew, Mrs Constance Elizabeth, of Budleigh Salterton, Devon..... £212,275

Mallion, Mrs Stella Katherine, of Princes Risborough, Warden of Toyne Hill, 19-54... £302,038

Stow, Mr Hubert, of Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire..... £247,569 net

Williscroft, Mr Frank Gardner, of Lymn, Cheshire..... £256,514

Wilde, Muriel Agnes, of West Kirby, Merseyside..... £221,335

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday February 1, 1957

More than twopence coloured

Members of both Houses of Parliament have now been given a demonstration of colour television. The exact object of the exercise is not very clear but it was to persuade people to be patient so much the better. For there are two main questions about colour television—When? and How?—and a rough answer to the first is easily given: "Not for a very long time. There are all the usual pressures to get something new like colour television. They are healthy. It is even healthier at present to resist them. Adding colour to monochrome transmissions is bound to be very expensive at both ends of the operation. Experience in America has shown there is no overwhelming public demand."

Mr Justice Nourse, who held in an appeal by the Crown from a decision of the commissioners in Scotland, Mr Somerton, who had upheld C. & J. Clark Ltd's appeal against an assessment to corporation tax for 1976 and reducing it from £1,847,984 to £1,751,357.

Clark's was a manufacturer of boots and shoes. In 1976 had cash of £1m surplus to its immediate requirements and approached Schroder Wag & Co for investment advice. It being agreed that the shareholders could edge securities to finance the company and accordingly could be deducted from its profits for corporation tax purposes.

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THE ARTS

Cinema: Manila Festival

Where charity begins abroad

The first Manila International Film Festival sustained its momentum to the end. The spectacle and hospitality were on a scale with which no festival within memory has ever competed, and were constantly enlivened by the unpredictable improvisations of the volatile First Lady of the Philippines, Imelda Marcos. The extravagance and the determined effort to woo the American moguls were not however appreciated by those local film-makers who complain of official discouragement to development of a serious Filipino cinema, and who demanded an end to cold-shoulder the event.

At another level of hostility towards the festival, terrorist threats of bombs and assassinations happily came to naught; and the worst that happened to the guests was to be peited with flowers at the closing night gala. There was however the excitement of a small earthquake, during the second reel of the Canadian film. Most of the audience (no doubt thinking it was *Sensurround*) sat the tremor out. The sissies among us, remembering that the great festival palace had been built in a matter of weeks, made a rapid exit as the chandeliers tinkled overhead; but the building proved equal to the shock.

The 21 films in competition maintained a very creditable standard. More than one third were debut works, and the jury unanimously voted the Grand Prix to one of these, *36 Chourringhee Lane*, directed by Aparna Sen, already known as an exceptionally gifted actress. Her film is assured and resourceful, comparable in achievement and stature, as well as theme, with *De Sica's Umberto D.*

The film was produced by the well-known Indian star, and scion of a famous movie dynasty, Shashi Kapoor, whose wife Jennifer Kendall (sister of Felicity) plays the leading role. By some miracle of dramatic innovation, the beautiful Miss Kendall transforms herself into a grey and wispy elderly Anglo-Indian spin-

ster, struggling to teach Shakespeare to high-spirited and uncaring schoolgirls.

Her drab life is suddenly joyously brightened by friendship with a young couple. Their separation is brief, but her spirit and the solace she finds in her beloved Bard are strong enough to bring her through the discovery of how callously her young friends have used her. The portrait is minutely observed; and Aparna Sen finds a universal and finally elating quality in this intimate depiction of loneliness and resilience.

Another first work by an Asian woman director, Rachel Zem's *Cream Soda and Milk*, found less ready acceptance with the critics, but is remarkable in the depth of Hong Kong cinema. Within the required formula of a story which offers a popular audience fast action and strong sentiment, Miss Zem's narrative of a brother and sister thrown by a broken home, to opposite ends of the social scale explores little-known areas of Hong Kong life. Largely shot on real locations, in slums, schools and the red-light area, it vigorously exposes the effects of social and racial inequality and economic privation.

From New Zealand, Roger Donaldson's *Smash Palace* also explores a wholly realistic and contemporary human situation: Bruno Lawrence's performance as a divorced husband who kidnaps his own daughter after being refused rights of access deservedly won the prize for best actor.

Eastern European films were strongly in evidence. The festival presented a large-scale retrospec-

tive of Hungarian cinema, and the Hungarian film in composition was Pal Gabor's *Wasted Lives*, an exploration (like the same director's *Angi Vera*) of the human effects of the Stalinist era. From Poland, *Vabian*, a spirited absurdist comedy about a bank-robbery, earned Juliusz Machulski a special jury prize for an outstanding directorial debut. The Yugoslav Goran Markovic's sardonic picture of the politics of school administration, *Jacks of All Trades*, took the prize for best direction. A rather chaotic comedy, *The Beloved Woman* of Mechanic Gavrilov, at least deserved its award for the leading performance of the popular Soviet comedienne Liudmila Gurchenko.

Special jury prizes were awarded to Peter Weir's *Galaxy* and to Karel Reisz's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Other films by established European directors however proved disappointing: Francois Truffaut's expert and unimportant *La Femme d'a coté*; R. W. Fassbinder's half-baked updating of the *Blue Angel* story to Adenauer's reconstruction Germany, *Lola*; and a dull ghost story by Dino Risi, *Fantasma d'Amore*.

Including a large information section, the Manila Festival screened in all some 200 films from 40 countries, and was intended, said its organizers, "to orient local movie audiences with the styles and genres of the cinema of other nations and prove that films are indeed the language of all races and nations." It may all have proved a heavier experience for the Filipino audience than was ever anticipated. Films shown in the festival bypassed the

ordinary rigorous national censorship, and the experience of seeing films as controversial in their several ways as *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *Man of Iron*, *Death Wish II* and *Stalker* undoubtedly left powerful impressions.

As it happened, the festival coincided with and even perhaps precipitated a critical confrontation between the Filipino film-makers and the censors, which is seen as the biggest obstacle to the emergence of a serious national cinema. In recent weeks responsibility for censorship has passed from the military authority to a civil board among whose 40 members society ladies predominate, and which makes the former military censorship seem, by contrast, positively liberal.

The particular focus of mistrust is the chairman of the board, a one-time beauty queen, now in her sixties, Maria Kalaw-Katigbak, whose first efforts have revealed capricious despotism, not to mention a touch of pyromania: she has burnt offending sections of film negatives on the spot to preclude any possibility of future appeal or reconsideration.

Matters came to a head during the festival with the total banning of two new films, *Schoolgirls* (in which the only apparent offence was that young girls were shown to become pregnant), and an action picture, *Boy Condorado*. In this case it is thought that the story bore too close resemblances to the real-life case of a celebrated gangster called Ben Tumbling. Tumbling was an orphan boy who earned his living as a street acrobat (hence his name) and subsequently became a criminal and police informer. He was killed when he finally rebelled and turned against the police. Posthumously he has acquired the status of folk hero, partly from his own Robin Hood exploits, partly as a tragic exemplar of the legacy of the slums. Past projects to film the story of Ben Tumbling have met with total prohibition.

The Manila directors today plan

a demonstration at the presiden-



Shakespeare for schoolgirls: Jennifer Kendall with Debrah Roy in '36 Chourringhee Lane'.



Gwen Taylor (left), Anna Wing, Frances de la Tour: superb performances

Theatre

Brutally honest humour

Skirmishes

Hampstead

The world is still full of primary human experience that nobody has bothered to dramatize, and it is quite a thrill when such raw material finds its voice through a writer as good as the Liverpool Playhouse's Catherine Hayes.

Where family relationships are concerned, most of us can be divided between the dutiful ones who stayed to look after the old folks, and the selfish ones who got out. *Skirmishes* examines these alternatives in the form of a siblings' duel over the body of a bedridden mother in the last stages of senile paralysis. And it that suggests the kind of motherly play you feel you can do without: I should add that it is also brutally funny, free of punch-drunk family recriminations, and aloof from any sense of revenge writing.

As the contestants first engage, Miss Hayes lets you feel you have them both weighed up. On the left, the childless Jean who has been tending her incontinent parent night and day for years, and has some cause for her snappy manner. On the right, Rita, paying one of her few courtesy calls from her conveniently removed family, now briskly straightening up the room and all too ready to pounce on her exhausted patient to allow the patient to develop bed-sores. As played by Gwen Taylor, nausae ill-concealed under a bright smile, Rita is the kind of woman who asks "Every-

thing all right?" in such a way that forbids anyone to say no.

However, she gets that answer right between the teeth from Frances de la Tour's Jean, whose delivery varies between flat-toned derision and sulphurous irony as she demolishes Rita's alibis and explains what it means to be responsible for an incontinent old hulk who now barely belongs to the human race.

The dramatic charge derives from the inert figure in the bed: treated by Rita as a person, and by Jean as an inanimate object whose ashes are about to be scattered. The spectator's view swings between these alternatives while the balance of sympathies between the sisters also starts moving.

It now emerges that Jean has another reason beyond filial duty for staying at

Irving Wardle

Scrap!

Playhouse, Liverpool

Blackmail, bribery and betrayal are what Bill Morrison's British secret agent calls the three Bs of diplomacy. Belfast, bombs and bullets are three other relevant Bs and the portraits of Bogart and Bacall on the lavatory doors of a sleepy Liverpool club give further indications of the world Mr Morrison is writing about. Like his earlier murderous farce, *Flying Blind*, *Scrap!* is a play which brings together the human stupidities of the war in Northern Ireland for the purposes of malignant comedy.

By the end, he has a full-scale farce on his hands, with a meeting of violent Irish Protestants, the Liverpool police, the British agent and assorted bystanders of varying degrees of innocence. They come together in a club with more than enough doors to satisfy Feydeau, only, instead of supplying confusing sexual implications, the opening and closing of doors finds its absurd laughter in the changing positions of power, with guns and bombs to provide the uneasy punch lines.

Laughter is a difficult weapon to aim precisely, and

Mr Morrison settles for the greater certainty of rolling in the jokes like hand-grenades. He provides a Liverpool scrap dealer who is dragged into the plot for a comical sympathy and to help a Belfast relative. The relative is a brother-in-law engaged in the business of secretariat murder, and his daughter has run to Liverpool with incriminating documents, keeping company with the British agent who has a grandiose private plan to end the strife in Ulster.

All that plotting, with flourishes of murder, a mysterious figure in a Micky Mouse mask, a blundering dyspeptic policeman, seductions, vengeful wives after their alimony and estranged husbands denied access to their children, requires a pace that Chris Bond's production lacks in the first half. It may be that Voytek's revolving set is too elaborate for the necessary speed — it is certainly lit too moodily.

Among the players, Chris Darwin animates the scrap dealer with droll reluctance and a bewildered sexual appeal to the women he meets (when the gun comes out they rush to his defence: "Don't shoot him, he's only small stuff"). Eve Bland storms delightfully in search of her absconding husband the agent.

Ned Chaillet

Concerts

Allegri Quartet

Oxford Music Faculty

Oxford is slow to change but likes to mark its little alterations. So it was that on Monday the Music Faculty gave a concert to celebrate their knight's move across the city, from the domestic warren in Holywell Street to the squat functional building previously occupied by Linacre College. Here the department has room for all its ancient and modern appurtenances, its Bate Collection of instruments and its electronic studio. What it does not have is a concert hall, but since the university has kept its lease on the Holywell Music Room none other is needed, and the faculty has been compensated for its move away from that venerable auditorium by the award of a rehearsal studio created within the new building. That was where this opening recital took place.

It was given by an ensemble with long-standing Oxford connexions, the Allegri Quartet, who are also finding their way into a new situation with the two violins on outside positions. The programme, too, was thoroughly Oxonian, starting with the recent fourth quartet of Edmund Rubbra, for many years a member of the faculty, and ending with a work by one of the university's most celebrated honorary doctors, Haydn, the F minor Quartet from his Opus 55. This was marvellously performed; its wild comedies perfectly timed and the fast movements taken as dialogues of musing and sometimes truculent pedants.

In Tim Fywell's production, three superb performances break the ingrained taboos on family affection and bereavement. It omits the smell of the sick room, but everything else is there.

Irving Wardle

SNO/Gibson

Festival Hall

Sir Alexander Gibson and his Scottish National Orchestra chose a Mahler programme again on Monday for their visit to the South Bank. They brought us an interesting young singer from West Germany, Doris Soffel, and a major undertaking for any orchestra or conductor, Mahler's ninth symphony, a work of extreme emotional range and structural subtlety. The funeral procession was weighty enough, the drums thundering, momentarily, the brass kept on a firm rein.

Wit and radiant vitality informed the whimsical second movement, so that the nightmare of the succeeding Rondo-burlesque would strike with maximum intimacy, its closing pages powerfully dynamic. The battle against inexorable annihilation is not quite won when the finale begins, and Gibson left room for further resistance during its course.

Mahler's music comes naturally, I guess, to Sir Alex, though it still has to be learnt carefully, and the execution as well as interpretation planned like an intricate military stratagem. I admired especially his concern for Mahler's contrapuntal melodic textures, everything as clear as possible, the orchestral balance focused upon those lines rather than on sumptuous harmony or enhancement of tension, which will make themselves felt if the rest is correctly judged.

The first movement's climaxes were banked, the SNO working quite well in their strings and muscular with a minimum of sensuous glow (even in the last Adagio), though one did not miss that, because the new studio created within the new building. That was where this opening recital took place.

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The middle Oxford work was commissioned from one of the latest graduates to make a name for himself as a composer, Nigel Osborne, who set two poems by Craig Raine in his *Cantata piccola* for soprano and quartet. It was a bold choice of text, for Raine's poetry is not in any obvious way song-like and indeed almost defies music as much by its rush of images as by such words as "asterisks".

However Osborne's two homogenous movements, one misty and the other frenetic, each took hold of the words and even added cogency to their continuous presence, especially with singing by Mary King so illuminated from within.

Beethoven was only in his mid-twenties when conjuring his E flat major Quartet for piano and wind. The Israeli team (Pinhas Salzman, Moshe Murvitz, Abraham Bornstein and Elizaveth Bregman) seemed acutely conscious of the fact that it had been conceived for instruments of limited expressive range by someone still feeling his way. Their playing was orderly and well balanced, with not the slightest suggestion of excessive keyboard dominance — as is so often the case in early Beethoven. But the reading

was curiously lacking in rhythmic vitality as well as in potency of expression. Delivered with such self-effacing classical correctness, the work could have been attributed to any also-ran at Bonn's Electoral court.

By the time Faure had reached the finale of his first piano quartet in C minor he was already pushing 40. Inevitably he is an infinitely more exuberant than Beethoven's despite its earlier opus number, and the airy colour helped the players to that. Even so all four movements were still under-characterized. Though melodic enough the strings lacked the requisite tonal body and bloom for the more luxuriant climaxes, and fearing to dominate, the pianist again too often played for safety. Even *dolcissimo* and *espresso* confidences in the *pianissimo* range needed a more intimate glow. The root cause of the disappointment was nevertheless the anonymity of the phrasing.

Four saxophonists delivered the melodies and riffs with full-toned aplomb anchored by Pete Miranda's massively mobile baritone, but the orchestra's true glory is its quartet of trumpeters, whose screaming high-note sequences sizzled like fat on a stove. Out of the section stepped Alfredo Armenteros for several majestic solos mixing bravura technique with melting lyricism.

The leader contented himself with waving a pair of maracas and singing duets with his daughter, Paula Grillo, who also distinguished herself by delivering a lush, regal ballad above bellowing horns and impatiently ticking hand-drums. It was a rare moment of calm in a volcanic evening.

Richard Williams

Latin music

Machito

The Venue

If the utterly spurious salsa boom has achieved nothing else, at least it brought Machito to London for a performance on Monday night which presented the untrainted essence, the pure and bright flame, of Latin music.

Born Frank Grillo in Florida almost 70 years ago and raised in Cuba, Machito formed his first orchestra in New York in 1939; there were collaborations with modern jazz musicians (notably Charlie Parker) during the early years, but mostly he has honed his art without feeling the need to blend in passing trends. Those who crowded the Venue floor will attest that his music is just about the best ever devised for dancing.

A rhythm section containing names like Ramos, Marerro, Gonzalez and Rodriguez promises an authentic Latin swing, and so it proved. Bossed by Machito's son, the timbaler Mario Grillo, they set up flowing jigsaw patterns which never flagged. Willie Rodriguez's tri-hammer piano figures were constantly impressive, particularly in the dizzyingly syncopated introduction to one trenchant solo.

Arenas on BBC2 deal with the poetry and some of the life of Osip Mandelstam, said to be one of the greatest poets of the century, a Russian Jew who wrote a poem about Stalin that led him first to exile, then — despite a tenacious attempt to write a more acceptable one — to death in a Siberian prison camp. There was some moving film, shot by a Dutch crew in 1973, of his widow, Hildebrandt, whose memory preserved the work it was hoped to destroy but the programme — here they kill people for it — lost much of its poignancy through long bouts of declamation in Russian, melodic maybe but not intelligible.

Dennis Hackett

ACADEMY 1

FROM THURSDAY

The outstanding new film

from the director of THE LACE-MAKER

Claude Goretta's

A GIRL FROM LORRAINE (AA)

ACADEMY 2

FROM THURSDAY - FOR A LIMITED SEASON

Tarkovsky's STALKER (A)

"As necessary to the cinema as Mozart is to music"

THE LISTENER

National Youth Orchestra Auditions 1982

Open to instrumentalists and composers living in the British Isles. First-time candidates must be under the age of 17 on 1st September 1982.

You can obtain full details of conditions of entry and an application form from the following address. (Closing date for applications March 31st).

The Administrator, The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, 94 Park Lane, Croydon, CR0 1JB.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

SPONSORED BY LLOYDS BANK AND CAPITAL RADIO

Television

A test of ethics

Stock Exchange Prices

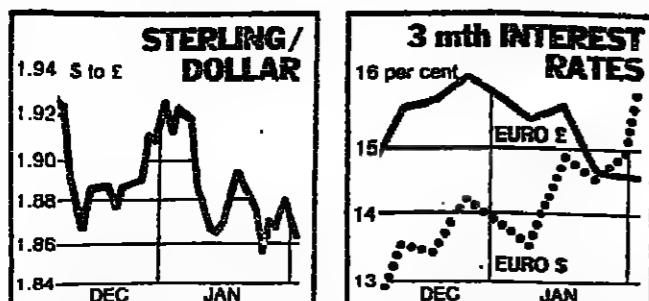
Equities recover

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End, Feb 12. Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BUSINESS NEWS

How US rates moved



Three-month dollar interest rates have moved a clear point above equivalent sterling rates. British rates might well have risen in line with dollar rates but for Bank of England action to keep them down. Despite the differential in favour of New York, the pound has held up reasonably well against the dollar and has been particularly firm against other European currencies.

Reserves rise by \$62m

The United Kingdom's gold and foreign currency reserves fell by \$122m in January to \$23,225m (£12,333m). However, after allowing for official transactions, there was an underlying increase of \$62m. Net public sector borrowing under the exchange cover scheme boosted the figures by \$94m, but against this there was a \$77m repayment on the IMF oil facility and a \$201m decrease on revaluation of the gold content of Britain's European Currency Units.

No bar to BNOC sales

Foreigners and overseas companies will be allowed to buy shares in the exploration and production arm of the British National Oil Corporation when it is privatized, Mr Nigel Lawson, Energy Secretary, confirmed yesterday. The articles of association of the newly privatized corporation will prevent any foreigner taking control however, he insisted.

Mr Lawson refused to confirm reports that the board of BNOC had voted unanimously against the Government's plans to split the corporation into two arms.

Big fall in oil sales

Oil has started the year with a big fall in its monthly sales. Preliminary figures circulating in the motor industry showed that the state-owned company took only about 14.3 per cent of all sales against 21.2 per cent in the previous month. Imports were nudging 60 per cent in a market expected to be about 125,000 or 10 per cent down on January last year.

Meanwhile, the Japanese kept their market share down to only about 9.3 per cent with Volkswagen Audi moving ahead of Datsun as the top importer. Ford's share of 31.5 per cent gave the company a clear market lead.

The Department of Industry has set up a study group with members from the government, industry and the universities to chart the future for information technology products in Britain.

MARKET SUMMARY

Bears beat the blues

of a forecast loss in the machine tool division. The shares rose 1p to 18p.

One group to have benefited from the recent train drivers' dispute is Bentalls, the department stores group, where the shares eased 1p to 37p. Word has filtered through that shoppers faced with the disruption to services have been buying locally throughout the January sales. In addition, the group has been opened a shopping complex in Tonbridge consisting of 60,000 sq ft. Another 1p share with J Sainsbury, and which is expected to make a significant contribution to profits.

There was a big buyer of Electrocomponents and the price recovered from an early level of 155p to end the day 2p up at 160p. Normand Electrical was suspended at 41p awaiting details of a possible bid approach. Throgmorton St. Nonmopes hold around 10.85 per cent of the equity with IFCP a further 7.10 per cent.

The Kuwait Investment Office has sold its entire stake of 4.5m shares, or 7.79 per cent of the shares, in Alexander Howden, the insurance broker. News of the disposal left the price 4p higher at 152p.

Shares of Metal Box fell 4p to 182p and rose 1p to 183p. But Flaman advanced a further 2p to 278p following the sale of its loss-making fertilizer division to Norsk Hydro.

According to several market pundits, this now leaves the way open to a bid from several overseas interests, including the two big German groups Hoechst and Bayer. The shares have now risen 10p to 278p and a bid would value them at \$103m.

The Stock Exchange has exonerated John Brown of any impropriety following a recent share placing of 5m shares ahead

COMMODITIES

• Several International Coffee Organization (ICO) producers and consumers have formally submitted proposals for changes in any future international coffee agreement beyond September 30 next year, according to ICO delegates.

The proposals include suggestions for selective indicator prices for different types of coffee, an updated basis for distribution of quotas, improved short-term provisions, a new formula for establishing trigger prices and some form of stockholding provision.

The current agreement has said, entire quotas or declare shortfalls in a timely fashion.

Several producers and consumers propose updating the reference years on which quota distribution negotiations are based, and which they consider give a disproportionate share to Brazil, ICO delegates said.

MONEY MARKETS

Domestic rates: Base rates 14% 3-month interbank 14%–14%

Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 15%–15% 3 month DM 10%–10%

3 month Fr. F. 16%–15%

Interest rates held steady, helped by the Bank holding its intervention rates at Monday's levels. Help totalled £178m on a shortage of £200m.

Today: Advance energy statistics (December). Energy select committee. National Economic Development Council monthly meeting. Association of British Chambers of Commerce luncheon. Commons discusses Lloyd's Bill.

Europe banks battle to peg interest rates

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Europe's central banks have stepped into the markets yesterday to head off fears of a rise in interest rates. Instead, they made it clear that they are ready to accept pressure on their currencies against the dollar in an effort to keep their economies moving.

The dollar gained ground sharply in early trading in response to last night's increase in interest rates in New York, an increase which was reinforced by the decision of other leading New York banks to put up their interest rates.

Chemical bank of New York put up its prime rate from 15% to 16% and Chase Manhattan went up to 16% per cent.

In early trading, the dollar's rate against the mark, now the key figure for European currencies, went up sharply to a high of DM2.3680, more than 2p higher above last night's close.

But profit taking and a false report of an assassination attempt on President Reagan led to a recovery of the European currencies later in the day to close at DM2.35 to the dollar, little change on Monday's close.

The bounce back came in spite of a firm statement by the German Bundesbank that it did not intend to raise interest rates, with its Lombard rate at which banks can borrow being kept at 10 per cent in the United Kingdom.

But European finance ministers recognise that it will not be possible to give their economies extra stimulus through falling interest rates if money in United States becomes tighter and interest rates there rise.

It is hoped that any increase in the dollar's value against the European currencies in the next few months will have a limited impact on inflation. Oil prices are showing signs of falling and might fall further if the dollar rises.

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LESNEY PRODUCTS

Matchbox hopes to strike it rich

This is the time of year the £300m-sales toy industry looks not so much to signed new season orders but listens to the trade vibrations at key showwindows like this week's toy and hobby fair at Earls Court, London (Derek Harris, writes).

So far, although nobody expects more than a tough trading year, the vibrations are moderately encouraging.

At least for the first time in two years the London fair, which ends today, has not been dominated by talk of the demise of manufacturers, like Dunbee Combez Marx in 1980 and Airfix last year.

Statistics are lacking but the verdict on last Christmas is that it was an improvement on the disaster of 1980 although some stock was left in the retail pipeline. Nevertheless there are already improved orders for items selling through the year.

The question mark over Lesney Products, the Matchbox range company which has the largest manufacturing base in Britain of any in the industry, has mainly

been over their 1981 losses and high borrowings.

At mid-term to last July the Lesney pre-tax deficit was down to £3.87m following a full-year pre-tax loss in 1980 of £10.95m on sales of £90m. Borrowings stood at £33.66m in July against shareholders' funds of £19.07m. Stocks had been cut by well over a third.

Mr John Abbott, chairman of Lesney Matchbox Toys says:

"This coming 12 months could be a recovery year after a survival year. We should get back to profit this year. Not that it is going to be an easy year for anybody".

Mr Abbott, who has had a lifetime in the toy industry, pins hopes on 80 new products in Lesney's four categories of die-cast models of which it is the world's largest manufacturer: motor racing sets, plastic model-making kits and pre-school toys.

Orders so far this year are a third up on last year's poor results but 15 per cent up on the more realistic comparison of 1980.

Mr Abbott says: At the end of last year Lesney was not holding any obsolete or excess stock.



Selling Lesney: Mr Abbott and full-size model dwarfed by a giant hand

UNITECH

Shares up on US purchase

Losses in Germany and much reduced profit in France have pushed electronics group Unitech's profits down 38 per cent in the opening half.

The fall was forewarned by Chairman Mr Peter Curry who said four months ago that profits for the full year to next May would be about the same as the £4.2m reported last year.

But a 10 per cent dividend rise and news that the group's second half will benefit from a four-month contribution from Milwaukee-based Erie Manufacturing was enough to lift the shares —

10p down at one point — to close 10p up at 235p.

The Half-time dividend is increased from a gross 3.6p to 4p and the £528,000 cost is covered around one and a half times by attributable profits. That has left £304,000 not distributed against £1.33m last time.

Above the line, sales fell 10 per cent to £39.9m and even with a lower interest charge, pre-tax profits fell from £1.38m to £1.47m for the six month to November 29 last.

Mr Curry says that de-stocking of micro-processors hit Germany and France, but there were now signs that the worst was over.

Unitech is paying 53.4p (4.5m) for Erie which makes and sells valves and other control components to the energy, water purification and medical equipment markets. Unitech's United Kingdom offshoot, Appliance Components, has been agent for the group since 1977.

GOLD FIELDS

Second dividend

Gold Fields of South Africa said yesterday that pre-tax profits for the first six months to the end of December had fallen to R52.8m (£29.3m) from R89.7m.

But Inco made a trading loss in the final three months even after these exceptional items have been removed. The loss was \$40.6m compared with net earnings of \$48.4m for the same period of 1980. Profits earlier in the year, however, enabled Inco to make net earnings of \$20.4m against \$250m in 1980.

While these figures are almost wholly attributable to

the fall in the price of gold — as the decline in Gold Fields' income from \$34.4m to \$50.2m shows — the heavy \$46.9m (£25.2m) loss incurred in 1981 by Inco, the Canadian nickel producer, was caused mainly by two exceptional items.

Inco's losses were in large part made in the final quarter when the company included in its results a provision of \$245m for the disposal of battery and other businesses of Inco Electro Energy and \$220m for loans to and debts of Eximbank, the mothballed Guatemalan nickel mine.

But Inco made a trading loss in the final three months even after these exceptional items have been removed. The loss was \$40.6m compared with net earnings of \$48.4m for the same period of 1980. Profits earlier in the year, however, enabled Inco to make net earnings of \$20.4m against \$250m in 1980.

Inco, whose share of the world nickel market it once dominated has steadily fallen, said that net sales for the year were down from \$2.15bn to \$1.88bn. Despite a full year loss of \$6.51 a share, Inco has declared a fourth quarter dividend of 5 cents. But the company has managed to reduce nickel inventories from 155 million pounds at the end of 1980 to 144 million pounds.

PRESTIGE

Profits rise

Prestige Group has again shown how to keep effective control over finances with a 16 per cent pre-tax profits rise achieved against a tough market last year.

Prestige, whose chairman is Mr David Lawman, pushed profits up to £6.62m in the year to December compared with £5.7m last time. Sales, however, fell marginally by £700,000 to £54m. The group sells products under trade names such as Skyline and Zetters.

Improvements in productivity and efficiency are behind the profits rise through further capital investment and tight control of working capital.

Increased earnings from its Australian and South African subsidiaries offset the continuing depressed demand in the United Kingdom and the group's European markets. Return on capital employed is similar to last year, 22 per cent.

Latest results

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on price per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.42. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=Trading Profit; b=£. African rand; c=S. African

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Cricket

West Indies discover again that sheer pace is not enough

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Adelaide, Feb 2

Australia fought a great fight in the third Test match against West Indies here today, with Border, Laird, Hughes and Marsh all having a part in it.

Hughes' 72 not out typified the Australian performance. Able only to hobble out, and with Dyson to run for him, he came in at 201 for three and made up for his immobility with intense concentration. By close of play Australia, with six second-innings wickets in hand, including Chappell's, had a lead of 190 and a fair chance of saving the match.

The pitch is now a beauty for bating, the sun having had a lot to do with it, and West Indies could yet find themselves chasms runs. To level the series they need to win here, but neither the West Indies nor have had a splendid match, even allowing for the monotony of the West Indian attack. For fear of seeming unfair to West Indies, their over rate has been getting out for 16 to the hour, which in these days is not in fact contemptible.

Between Games, Holding, Croft and Roberts have been little to choose. They have taken a wicket apiece, but they found once again that sheer pace was not enough. In four of West Indies' last five tests, they have not won a set, do yet before the match is safe. They have a long time and are not yet in the lead, but are swollen for an examination to show whether or not it is broken.

No praise is too high for Hughes. With a broken big toe in his left foot and a badly bruised instep on his right, he had to play very much with his hands. In an inverted kind of way this could have been a good thing; such is his talent and his urge to express it that he often gets himself out. Today, for nearly three hours and half, he applied himself to surviving, managing, running out to force anything short through the covers off the back foot. In six hours play Australia lost two wickets while scoring 241 runs.

The morning's tally was 72 from 32 overs for no wicket. Early in the West Indies' turn they had Border caught at the wicket down the leg side. Both Border and Laird played very soundly and rounds lunched Lloyd had Gomes bowling from one end and Richards from the other, the ball coming from the new ball. It was a battle of attrition, which had the unswerving attention of another good crowd. I am beginning to



Hughes: no praise too high for his performance

think that of all the overseas groups Australia is the most acceptable to wicket-keepers at any rate until we play in Cape Town again.

Between lunch and tea another 87 runs were added off 31 overs and at 201 Laird was caught at the wicket down the leg side. He seemed not to think so. His first-wicket partnership with Border was worth 166; they will never share a better one. The new ball, taken at 223 for three, did no damage. Border was well entrenched and bowlers had to be content with minorities. Right out of the blocks Hughes by tossing the ball high into the air as a tennis player resorts to the lob; but Hughes limped in undefeated.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings: 1A: R. Border 72, J. S. Chappell 42 for 33. Second Innings: 1. V. L. Dyson, c. and b. Holding 10; J. Croft, c. and b. Holding 10; J. H. Laird, run out 10; J. P. Gomes, b. and b. Holding 10; R. Lloyd, b. and b. Holding 10; R. Marsh, b. and b. Holding 10; Total 14 wickets 341.

WEST INDIES: First Innings: 1A: R. Chapman, b. V. L. Dyson 10; R. Thompson, b. V. L. Dyson 10; Total 10 wickets 166.

restraint: he took no chance and gave none. It was as useful a Test as Australia has had for a long time. After starting the day with every chance of having won by this evening West Indies ended pretty well done in when it ended. In the closing moments, Rutherford took Hughes by tossing the ball high into the air as a tennis player resorts to the lob; but Hughes limped in undefeated.

Malik runs blitz

Sydney, Feb 2.—Asim Malik blitzed the Australian bowling to score 111 not out in 141 minutes and give his team an eight-wicket victory in the under-19s. In the long run, it was Hughes

who soon worked out what he could do and what it was wiser not to attempt.

Border's hundred was his ninth for Australia and his first against West Indies. After a hard set series against Pakistan (84 runs from five innings), his scores against West Indies have been 45, 53, not out 9, 78 and 126. When, 10 minutes after tea today, he lost concentration and was caught off the new ball, he had batted for five hours and a half.

For the last hour and three quarters Marsh batted with great

England on way to World Cup final

From Richard Streeton
Kanpur, Feb 2

Christchurch, Feb 2.—England have only to beat an International XI who have not won in 10 qualifying matches to earn a place in the final of the women's world Cup in Australia. While New Zealand, England's main rivals for a place in the final, were humbled India by eight wickets, England were involved in an exciting tie with Australia, she defending champion.

Avril Starling bowled Russell with the final ball of the match to deny Australia the run which would have preserved their 100 per cent record in the competition. The Australians were all out for 167 in reply to England's 60-over total of 167 for eight. The two points gained keep England in the table of New Zealand in the table with only one round of matches to be played.

ENGLAND: 1A: J. Britton, b. Thompson 5; J. Groom, l-b-w, b. Martin 25; J. Southgate, b. Cornish 45; H. Heywood, f. Flint, c. Martin 24; R. Trott, b. Martin 10; J. Trott, run out 10; J. Trott, not out 10; R. Stutter, b. Martin 10; Extras 1 b, 1-0, 10. Total 18 wickets 167.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—17. 2—10. 3—167. 4—167. 5—167. 6—167. 7—167. 8—167. 9—167. 10—167. 11—167. 12—167. 13—167. 14—167. 15—167. 16—167. 17—167. 18—167. 19—167. 20—167. 21—167. 22—167. 23—167. 24—167. 25—167. 26—167. 27—167. 28—167. 29—167. 30—167. 31—167. 32—167. 33—167. 34—167. 35—167. 36—167. 37—167. 38—167. 39—167. 40—167. 41—167. 42—167. 43—167. 44—167. 45—167. 46—167. 47—167. 48—167. 49—167. 50—167. 51—167. 52—167. 53—167. 54—167. 55—167. 56—167. 57—167. 58—167. 59—167. 60—167. 61—167. 62—167. 63—167. 64—167. 65—167. 66—167. 67—167. 68—167. 69—167. 70—167. 71—167. 72—167. 73—167. 74—167. 75—167. 76—167. 77—167. 78—167. 79—167. 80—167. 81—167. 82—167. 83—167. 84—167. 85—167. 86—167. 87—167. 88—167. 89—167. 90—167. 91—167. 92—167. 93—167. 94—167. 95—167. 96—167. 97—167. 98—167. 99—167. 100—167. 101—167. 102—167. 103—167. 104—167. 105—167. 106—167. 107—167. 108—167. 109—167. 110—167. 111—167. 112—167. 113—167. 114—167. 115—167. 116—167. 117—167. 118—167. 119—167. 120—167. 121—167. 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FROM FURTHEST EAST
to furthest West, from
among the nations. Every
war, every sacrifice and
every gift that is offered to
the Lord, "was the LORD of
hosts," Malachi 1: 11 (NEB).

BIRTHS

NONADIO—On 31st January, to
Victoria (see Morton) and David
(daughter) Gabriella, at
Hill Farm, Gullingham, Norfolk.
Also, to Robert (see Mason), Philip
Todhunter, brother for Hem-
pton.

SUMSTEAD—On January 31st, at
St. Thomas's Hospital, to Janice
and Christopher, a brother for
Loydon and Zoe.

CONRAD—On 12th January,
at Fulham Royal Infirmary,
to Jennifer Louise, a daughter
of Jean and Lovis, and much
loved wife of Jean and Lovis.

DICKSON—On 31st January, at
Dundee, to Penny (see Drysdale),
Alastair, a daughter, Emily.

DONOVAN—On 30th January, in
Christian (see Davidson), and
Nicholas (daughter), France
(Margaret).

DODD—On December 13th, in
Edinburgh, to the Hon. Charles
Lambert, Brussels, to Emily and
Brian, a daughter (Louise
Haworth).

LAMPLUGH—On January 29th,
to Mandy (see Hart), and
Sarah, a daughter, Joanne
Susan, a sister for Simon.

SARASO—On January 29th, at
1928 at the Norfolk & Norwich
Folklore Museum, to Valerie
(daughter) and Michael, a son.

SPENCER—On January 15th,
to Anna and David, a daughter
for Catherine.

SPRATT—On 30th January,
to Dominic and Christopher, a brother
for David, a brother for John.

TAM—On 28th January, at
R.N.S., Sydenham, to Ruth (see
Hannigan), and Michael, a son.

WRIGHTSON—On 31st January,
to Linda and Martin, a son.

BIRTHDAYS
CHRIS DORVAL Harry 39th
Birthday. With love from 124

MARRIAGE

MUNNY—Porter. On January
29th, in Oxford, between Julian
Thomas, young son of the late
Doris (see Munny), and Helen
Munny, and Helen Munny, elder
daughter of Lt.-Col. and Mrs.
M. Porter.

DEATHS

ATKINS—On January 30, sud-
denly at Guy's Hospital, after
a long illness, to his family as
"Papa". Known to many as
Tommy, a much loved father
of children and husband of
the late Jeanne (see Atkins).

MUNNY—S. JOHN.—A memorial
service will be held in his
memory at the Royal Hospital
for the Incurables, Broad-
way, Worcester, on Saturday
10th February, 1982, at 10.30 a.m.

BUCHANAN—On January 30, Donald
Percival, 74, of Bletchley, Funer-
al service at St. John's Church,
Bletchley, Friday, 3rd February,
1982, at 3 p.m. Interment at
Bletchley Cemetery.

JOHNSON—On January 30, at
Bridges Church, Fleet St., London,
to his wife, Dorothy, and
children, David and John.

LAURENCE—On January 30, at
Cathedral Church of St. Peter,
Vauxhall, London, to his wife,
Gloria, and his son, David.

CLAYDON—On 30th January,
Dr. Helen Moran, Private
practitioner, London, to her
son, Dr. James (see Claydon).

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

9.05 For Schools, Colleges: Dye and Investment Casting. 9.38 Sciences: Dissolving. 10.00 You and Me with Leslie Wilshire (not Schools). 10.15 Everyday Maths. 10.38 Games: 11,000 Words and Pictures. 11.17 Electricity in Music. 11.40 Living Images. 12.05 French. 12.30 News. After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report and news (headlines) 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. With the £1,000 competition winner. 1.45 Postman Pat. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r). 2.01 For Schools, Colleges: To the Polar regions with Captain Cook. 2.40 Travelling by horse and motor. 3.05 Songs of Praise from the Parish Church of All Saints, Blackheath. Introduced by Michael Barratt (r). 3.40 Play It Safe! introduced by Jimmy Savile (r). 3.53 Regional news (not London).

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC 2).

4.20 Cartoon: Secret Squirrel In Gold Rushed (r).

4.25 Jackanory. Tony Aitken with part three of The Eggbox Brontosaurus.

4.40 Take Hart. Tony Hart with a programme about stripes.

5.00 John Craven's Newsround.

5.10 The Story of the Treasure Seekers. Episode five of six dramatising the story by E. Nesbit.

5.40 News with Richard Baker.

6.00 South East at Six.

6.25 Nationwide.

6.55 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Four cartoons featuring Tom and Jerry, Droopy, Barney Bear and Bugs Bunny.

7.25 The Variety Club Awards introduced by Terry Wogan and Ray Moore from the Hilton Hotel, London.

8.10 Olivia Newton-John. A visual interpretation of some of the numbers from the singer's latest long playing record.

9.00 News with John Humphrys.

9.25 Sportsnight introduced by Harry Carpenter. Bill Wyman, comedian Lorraine Chase and book specialist Frank Delaney.

12.10 Weather.

Lorraine Chase: BBC 1, 11.15pm

BBC 2

10.20 Gherbar A magazine programme of interest to Asian women. 10.45 Closedown. 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Sarah Long and Don Spencer with Derek Griffiths. The story is Gifty, the Small Dog with the Big Bone by Julie and Don Spencer. 11.25 Closedown. 12.30 Open University: Developing Mathematics Through Fractions. 1.20 Closedown. 5.55 Landscapes of England. In the fifth of twelve excursions of discovery Professor W. G. Hoskins visits the Black Country, the area of south Staffordshire between Walsall and Wolverhampton. Professor Hoskins examines the landscape and the influence it has on the population (r).

4.20 Robinson's Travels. Robert Robinson travels the Pioneer Trail westward across the United States (r).

5.10 Toyah at the Rainbow. Highlights of the concert given by Toyah at the Rainbow Theatre, London (r).

5.40 Laurel and Hardy in Busy Bodies' (1933).

6.00 The Water Margin. Heroic adventures of ancient Chinese knights.

6.45 The Making of Mankind presented by Richard Leakey.

7.35 News with subtitles.

7.40 The Master Game. The first of a new series. Jeremy James introduces the game between Hecht of West Germany and Christiansen of the United States.

8.10 Chronicle: Ancient Mariners. An insight into the trading between countries of the ancient world.

9.00 M*A*S*H. A new surgeon to the 4077th creates problems for the regulars when he suffers a nervous breakdown. Alan Alda and Mike Farrell star in the long-running black comedy.

9.25 The Bell. The final episode of the novel by Iris Murdoch. Everything is set for the contrived "miracle" thought up by Dora and Toby when trouble looms on the horizon in the shape of Noel, Dora's old flame.

10.20 Out of Court. The first of a new series of seven programmes presented by Nick Ross and Jane Winstone. They bring some of the legal stories of the week.

10.50 Newsnight. Among the items is an interview by Joan Bakewell with Elizabeth Canham, an ordained lady of the cloth. Ends at 11.40.

12.15 Close with Celia Crisp talking about living in style.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools: Insight for the hearing impaired. 9.47 Picture Box. 10.04 A visit to a quarry and the uses of stone in architecture. 10.16 German conversation. 10.38 The Legacy of Faust. 11.03 A need for sleep and exercise. 11.39 The Royal Wedding of 1947. 12.00 The Munch Bunch. Vegetable characters for the very young. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. 12.30 Play It Again. Tony Bilbow talks to Oliver Tobias who also choose some clips from his favourite news. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 Take the High Road. 2.00 A Day in Moon Park. American Nancy Roberts extols the virtues of "big is beautiful" to Kay Avey. 2.45 The Six Million Dollar Man. Steve Austin identifies a man he saw try to kill somebody — but he has a cast-iron alibi (r). 3.45 Definition. A quiz chaired by Pete Murray.

4.15 Cartoon: Dangermouse. Madabout. Michael Bentine talks to actress Francoise Pascal about her hobby of archaeology.

4.45 Arthur of the Britons. Adventure series set in the time of King Arthur.

5.15 Mr Merlin. Comic adventures of a wizard disguised as a garage manager.

5.45 News. 5.00 Thames news.

6.25 Help in the last of the three programme series on the problem of alcohol abuse. Vic Taylor Gets talks about Al-Anon, a self-help group.

6.35 Crossroads.

7.00 This is Your Life introduced by Eamonn Andrews.

7.30 Coronation Street. Is Annie Walker about to buy a new car?

8.00 Two of a Kind. Morecambe and Wise discuss famous comic double acts with Alan Whicker.

Radio 4

8.00 News Briefing. Farming Today. 8.10 Today. 8.25 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.35 News. 8.45 Midweek Henry Kelly. 8.55 Gardeners' Question Time. 10.02 Weather. 10.30 Daily Services.

11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00 News — Weather.

1.00 Concert Hall: Cello and piano recital: Rachmaninov.

2.00 Jazzmen Talking. In this third programme of eight Charles Forats to drummer Ewin Jones. Jones describes what it was like playing with such artists as Bud Powell, Charlie Mingus, Miles Davis and Sonny Rollins and how he enjoyed his abravas with the John Coltrane Quartet. He also news of his own group, the first of which he formed in 1964.

3.00 Choral Evensong. from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. News.

4.00 Concert: Pleasure.

5.00 Saul Bellow and the Latter-Day Lean-To. A commentary on the life and work of Saul Bellow, prize-winning writer. Saul Bellow and Brahms: Concert direct from the Royal Festival Hall, London. 6.00 Concert: Schoenberg. 8.10 Concert: Part 2: Brahms.

9.00 Music: out Remet Barlow. 10.00 Concert: John Kappanan, Sora, Sato, Frederick van Rossum. News.

11.00 Your Galler on records playing some of the great French music. French: Couperin, Louis Daquin and Claude Balbastre.

Medium: frequency/recording w/e above except: 7.05-11.15 am Cricket: Sixth Test.

Radio 3

1.00 Weather. 2.00 Your Midweek Choice Record requests: Wagner, Ravel, Rachmaninov. 3.00 Your Midweek Choice (cont'd) Arensky, Beethoven, Mozart. 4.00 Morning Story: "Everything Went On" by Brian Givens. 5.00 Baker's Dozen. 6.00 News. 7.05 Your Midweek Choice Record requests: Wagner, Ravel, Rachmaninov.

8.00 Your Midweek Choice (cont'd) Arensky, Beethoven, Mozart. 9.00 News. 9.30 Your Midweek Choice Record requests: Wagner, Ravel, Rachmaninov.

10.00 Concert String Quartet recital.

11.00 Saul Bellow and the Latter-Day Lean-To. A commentary on the life and work of Saul Bellow, prize-winning writer. Saul Bellow and Brahms: Concert direct from the Royal Festival Hall, London. 12.00 Concert: Schoenberg. 8.10 Concert: Part 2: Brahms.

9.00 Music: out Remet Barlow. 10.00 Concert: John Kappanan, Sora, Sato, Frederick van Rossum. News.

11.00 Your Galler on records playing some of the great French music. French: Couperin, Louis Daquin and Claude Balbastre.

Medium: frequency/recording w/e above except: 7.05-11.15 am Cricket: Sixth Test.

Radio 1

5.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Don Lee. 12.00 Steve Wright. 5.00 Peter Powell. 7.00 Radio 1. 8.00 David Jensen. 10.00 John Peel. 12.00 midnight Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wavebands. GERMANY: 7.00 Radio 1. 7.29 Twenty-Four Hours. News Summary. 7.30 Letter from the Editor. 7.45 The World Today. 7.55 The World Tonight. 8.00 Radio 2. 8.15 The King of Instruments. 8.30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 9.00 World News. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look and Listen. 9.45 Terry Wogan's Afternoon. 10.15 The World Tonight. 10.30 The Pled and the Black. 11.00 World News. 11.05 News about Britain. 11.15 Listening Post. 11.30 Michael Parkinson. 12.00 The World Today. 12.15 The World Tonight. 12.30 The Farming World. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.20 Radio 2. 1.30 The World Tonight. 1.45 The World Today. 1.55 The World Tonight. 2.15 News on Religion. 2.30 A Word in Edgewise. 3.00 Radio Universal. 3.15 Children. 4.00 World News. 4.15 The World Tonight. 4.30 The World Tonight. 4.45 The World Tonight. 5.00 World News. 5.25 The King of Instruments. 5.30 World News. 5.45 The King of Instruments. 5.55 The King of Instruments. 5.55 The King of Instruments. 6.00 Jazz for the Asking. 6.10 World News. 10.05 The World Today. 10.15 The World Tonight. 10.30 The World Tonight. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.15 Listen to the British. 11.30 Radio 2. 12.00 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio 2. 12.30 Listening Post. 12.45 Stories of the Day. The News. 12.55 The World Tonight. 1.00 News of the Day. 1.15 The World Tonight. 1.30 The British Press. 1.45 The British Press. 1.55 The British Press. 2.15 News on the Sun. 2.30 Assignment. 3.00 World News. 3.05 News on the Sun. 3.15 The World Tonight. 3.30 The World Tonight. 3.45 The World Tonight. 3.55 The World Tonight. 4.00 Newsweek. 4.45 The World Today.

Radio 2

2.00 News. 5.05 Ray Moore. 7.30 Tony Weller. 10.05 John Peel. 12.00 Gloria Hunniford. 1.00 Ed Stewart. 4.00 David Hamilton. 5.45 Alan Dunn. 8.30 The King's Concert. 10.00 Entertainment. 1.30 Sounds of the Sun. 10.00 Pros and Cons. 10.30 Be My Guest. 11.00 Brian Matthew.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Saul Bellow: Radio 3, 7.00pm

Saul Bellow and the Latter-Day Lean-To. A commentary on the life and work of Saul Bellow, prize-winning writer. Saul Bellow and Brahms: Concert direct from the Royal Festival Hall, London. 12.15 am Bedtime, followed by Closedown.

THURSDAY

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30pm.

1.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00-6.35 North.

7.15-8.00 Bedtime.

8.15-9.00 Crossroads.

9.15-10.00 Goodbye.

10.15-11.00 Bedtime.

11.15-12.00 Closedown.

FRIDAY

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30pm.

1.45-3.45 Hagan (Chad Everett). 5.15-5.45 Radio 4.

6.00 Lookaround.

7.15-8.00 Bedtime.

8.15-9.00 Crossroads.

9.15-10.00 Goodbye.

10.15-11.00 Bedtime.

11.15-12.00 Closedown.

SATURDAY

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30pm.

1.45-3.45 Hagan (Chad Everett). 5.15-5.45 Radio 4.

6.00 Lookaround.

7.15-8.00 Bedtime.

8.15-9.00 Crossroads.

9.15-10.00 Goodbye.

10.15-11.00 Bedtime.

11.15-12.00 Closedown.

SUNDAY

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30pm.

1.45-3.45 Hagan (Chad Everett). 5.15-5.45 Radio 4.

6.00 Lookaround.

7.15-8.00 Bedtime.

8.15-9.00 Crossroads.

9.15-10.00 Goodbye.

10.15-11.00 Bedtime.

11.15-12.00 Closedown.

MONDAY

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30pm.

1.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Radio 4.

6.00 Lookaround.

7.15-8.00 Bedtime.

8.15-9.00 Crossroads.

9.15-10.00 Goodbye.

10.15-11.00 Bedtime.

11.15-12.00 Closedown.

TUESDAY

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30pm.

1.45-3.45 Play. The Ante Room.

5.15-5.45 Radio 4.

6.00 Lookaround.

7.15-8.00 Bedtime.

8.15-9.00 Crossroads.

9.15-10.00 Goodbye.

10.15-11.00 Bedtime.

11.15-12.00 Closedown.

WEDNESDAY

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Iran frees Briton from prison after 17 months

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman who has been held in an Iranian prison without trial for the past 17 months, has been released, the Foreign Office announced yesterday.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said that Mr Pyke, aged 42, was handed to Swedish diplomats who represent British interests in Tehran on Thursday and would return home in the next few days. "We are just waiting for the formalities to be completed, then he can leave," the spokesman said.

A British diplomat contacted by telephone in the Swedish Embassy in Tehran said that Mr Pyke was in good shape when he left prison and had spoken to his wife in Holland and his father in Britain on several occasions since his release.

He was spending his time reading some of the 10,000 Christmas cards sent by well-wishers in Britain and walking around the embassy compound just enjoying life.

"You can imagine how he felt when he was released," the diplomat, Mr Nicholas Barrington, head of the British interests section in the Swedish Embassy, said. "His reaction was one of tremendous delight." Mr Barrington said that the Iranian judicial process

had been completed, Mr Pyke

had been found innocent of all charges and had then been set free.

Asked why the news of Mr Pyke's release had not been confirmed until yesterday, officials in Whitehall explained their caution by recalling the problems which the American hostages had encountered during the final hours of their departure from Tehran.

Mr Pyke, who comes from Hereford, was arrested in August, 1980, at Tehran Airport at the time of the leave Iran. The Iranian first said that he would be charged with spying but he was later accused of financial irregularities.

During his stay, first in the notorious Evin prison in Tehran and later at Karaj jail 20 miles west of there, Mr Pyke solved crossword puzzles in *The Times*. He was not allowed to play cards because they are against the laws of Islam.

Two other Britons remain in Iranian jails. Mr Frank Skinner, a 53-year-old flight engineer, arrested last April after the illegal departure of another Briton, and Mr John Allen Bowden, a 46-year-old company director, has been held since October 26 accused of currency irregularities.

Army drives away Israelis blocking Sinai withdrawal

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Feb 2

Israeli defence forces today for the first time forcibly removed Jewish militants attempting to obstruct the withdrawal from Sinai.

A few hundred soldiers closed in at daybreak on several score militants who had camped since Sunday near Kuseim in the desert and prevented workers from dismantling a water pipeline. The militants were sent by bus to Beersheba while the workers continued to dig up pipes under Army protection.

The use of force seemed to represent a policy shift since Mr Shimon Peres, Defence Minister, had refused to sanction it when militants in the Yarmuk area prevented the salvage of infrastructure from a cluster of settlements near the coast.

Heikal interview, page 5

The defence forces radio station reported that the troops arrived at daybreak, destroyed the encampment and led women and children to buses. Men who had chained themselves to tractors were released and carried to the buses. Two men put up resistance and had to be overpowered. Some of the evacuated complained they had been beaten by soldiers.

The pipeline from Israel used to serve military bases in Sinai. The pipes are being laid in the Negev to supply the new bases being built there.

Lord Carrington's official visit to Israel, the first by a Foreign Office minister during Mrs Thatcher's Government, is to take place on March 31 and April 1.

Heikal interview, page 5



Double take: Princess Michael of Kent joins Sachiko Komatsu, aged 2, in admiring a portrait of the young Japanese girl by Joyce Wyatt at the opening of the 121st exhibition of the Society of Women Artists at the Mall Galleries, London, yesterday.

Commons leader goes on radio to defend speech

Continued from page 1

bridge last Friday, in which he did not appear to be attempting to dampen any expectations of significant legislation.

Mr Pym commented: "The Chancellor would be the first to say that the task ahead of us is very formidable indeed. He knows that perfectly well."

Showing no inclination to soften the line taken in his speech, Mr Pym said: "We have to understand, as a nation, what a formidable task lies ahead. That does not in any way mean that we do not have to take account in any assessment we make of the good news because a lot is going well for us. Equally, it is helpful for people to realize what a formidable job we have in the next few years."

See Geddes and all the commentators, he said, the recovery would be slow and steady and would begin at a time when unemployment was still rising. "Therefore, it is very important for people's expectations not to be so high that they are only disappointed by disappointment.

After the defeat, the minis-

ter said: "The financial effect of the amendment is to reduce the amount of money going into the National Insurance Fund by £65m, of which the greatest beneficiaries will be the larger companies who, on our calculations, stand to gain a windfall of £55m."

"What I will plan to do now is to see if there is a way of meeting the will of the committee without imposing additional administrative burdens, and helping the small businesses in particular, without denying the fund such a loss which goes to the larger companies."

Conservatives on the committee were clearly not convinced that small business would suffer. Mr Shepherd pointed out more than once that his amendment had the support of the Small Business Bureau, which is located in Conservative Party headquarters at Smith Square, and the Federation of Self-employed and Small Businesses.

Furthermore, this would be the situation "for some time to come". Also, unemployment would not soon drop from three million.

The Leader of the House turned up on the Government front bench yesterday as if nothing much had happened.

He sat in on questions to the employment ministers, Mr Eric Varley, the shadow Secretary of Employment.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Pym's game, page 8

Minister criticizes Tory rebels over lost £65m

Continued from page 1

bridge last Friday, in which he did not appear to be attempting to dampen any expectations of significant legislation.

Mr Pym stressed during the radio interview his belief that the Government would be more likely to win the next election if it avoided soft options and the temptation to go for quick refunds to gain popularity.

"The British people have a very realistic view of their politicians and the world in which they live," he said.

In the Commons, Mrs Thatcher dealt lightly with Mr Pym's attempts to embarrass her over Mr Pym's remarks. Quoting selectively from it she said that Mr Pym had made an excellent speech. She convinced few of her hearers that she meant it.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General of the Royal Marines, attends the Mounted Bands of the Royal Marines, Albert Hall, 7.15.

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips attend Court dinner of the Worshipful Company of Fitters at Innholders Hall, London, 7.20.

Exhibitions

Stanley Spencer in the Shipyard drawings by Stanley Spencer and photographs by Cecil Beaton, The Minories, Colchester, 11 to 5.

Prints by Cari Richards, Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast, 10 to 5.

Japanese Festivals — exhibition for children on Japanese life and traditions, Baggie Castle Museum, 100 St Andrews Drive, Glasgow, 10 to 5.15.

Royal wedding dress and

presents, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, 9.30 to 4.30.

Last chance to see

Work by Hugh Macdonald, New Craftsman, 42 Old Bond Street, 10 to 6.

British Toymakers Guild's Toy Fair, 240 The Broadway, Wimborne, SW19, 11 to 5.30.

Music

Mayne's The Creation, Northern School of Music, City Hall, Newcastle, 7.45.

Concert, Academy of Ancient Music, chamber music recital, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Portsmouth, 7.30.

Japan exhibition

Admission to the Great Japan Exhibition at Royal Academy of Arts from 10.30 to 5.30 on strike days. Open 10 to 6 daily; exhibition close February 21.

Auction viewings

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: European oil paintings, 9 to 3; English and Continental furniture, 5 to 3; Christie's, King Street, Eastern textiles, rugs and carpets: Continental 19th and 20th century pictures; English and Continental glass, all 9 to 4.45.

Christie's, South Kensington: A few items, 9.15 to 10.30; mechanical music, 9.15 to 4.30.

European ceramics, 9.15 to 4.30.

Phillips, Blemham Street: Scientific instruments, 9 to 12; specialized Great Britain stamps.

Forest & Muck: 12.30 to 4.30.

Sotheby's, Bonhams, Christie's, Master and modern prints, carpets, 9.30 to 4.30. Sotheby's, Belgrave: toys and dolls; Oriental works of art, both 9.30 to 4.30.

For NCP space availability, call 01-499 7050.

Accommodation

The London Tourist Board has

made special arrangements to

help workers to book hotels in

the city; call 01-730 3450 before

5.30; or bookings can be made

in person at National Tourist

Information Centre, Victoria

Station, from 9 am to 6.30 pm.

Air

Possible delays to passengers

at Orly and Charles de Gaulle

airports in Paris because of

customs workers' work-to-rule.

Getting to airports

Flightrow: flight 767 from

Victoria Coach Station; A1 bus

from Victoria Station; A1 bus

from Paddington Station; Underground train (Piccadilly line).

Garrett: flightline 777 from

Victoria Coach Station.

Luton: flightline 757 from

Edinburgh Bridge, Victoria

National Express: to Heathrow

and similar services to

London and Gatwick from many

regional airports. Details from accredited travel agents, National Travel Agents, offices, or call 01-730 0202.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Local Gov-

ernment (Miscellaneous Provisions)

Bill, remaining stages. Private

Bill (2.30): Debate on the

economy.

The pound

Bank buys

Bank sells

Australia \$ 1.77

Canada \$ 2.22

Denmark Kr 14.88

Finland Mark 8.70

Germany DM 11.58

Hong Kong \$ 11.25

Ireland Pt 1.29

Italy Lir 2435.00

Japan Yen 458.00

Netherlands Gld 5.00

Norway Kr 11.54

Portuguese Esc 12.54

South Africa R 2.14

Sweden Kr 11.12

Switzerland Fr 3.66

USA \$ 1.91

Yugoslavia Dinar 105.00

Yuan 56.00

Focus on NIGERIA

Oil has made Nigeria the richest nation in Africa in terms of gnp, but it also has the largest number of mouths to feed. Godfrey Morrison takes stock of the Federal Government's record since the return to civilian rule in 1979

Two years after the return to civilian rule Nigeria has weathered political and economic difficulties in a way which shows that most Nigerians are determined to keep this huge country united and assume its natural leadership role in Africa.

Judging from results so far it is clear that the military were wise to break the country up into 19 states and that the framers of the constitution of the second republic were wise to adopt an American-style constitution which separates the powers of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary.

Westminster-style parliamentary government, introduced by the British at independence in 1960, lasted a mere six years, to be followed by military rule and a bloody civil war.

Nothing is certain in politics but the present constitution, by diffusing power, both at the centre and outwards to the states, at least gives greater scope for local political ambition and reduces the inevitability of political confrontation in a country where ethnic loyalty remains a potent force in politics.

Nigeria's importance is not simply its oil wealth but its population size. Its ninety-odd million people make it by far Africa's largest country, most of its 19 states are as large as a medium-sized African nation.

President Shehu Shagari, who represents a link both with Nigeria's first civilian government because he first emerged as a protege of the country's first Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and with the period of military rule because he served as a commissioner in General Gowon's government, has emerged with enhanced stature after two years as his country's leader.

He has been criticized for practising "minimum government" but he has succeeded in making the new constitution, whose separated powers were alien to Nigeria's political tradition, work in a way that a more impatient man would not have achieved.

Significantly, even governors of states ruled by the opposition parties express personal esteem for the federal leader, and 1981 ended with a major political

victory when the federal legislature finally passed a revenue allocation Bill setting the way the country's massive income — mainly from oil — should be divided between the Federal Government, the states and local government authorities.

President Shagari has ruled with certainty and decisiveness. In the first place Nigerians were tired of 13 years of military rule and were predisposed to give the new civilian government a fair wind so as not to present the military with an easy excuse to re-emerge from their barracks.

Second, in the elections which preceded the return of the civilians his National Party of Nigeria (NPN) emerged with by far the strongest claim to real national appeal, having won a respectable number of votes in all parts of the federation.

Initially his administration had an agreement with the Nigerian Peoples Party (NPP), led by Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Nigeria's first president, which gave his government support in the bi-cameral federal legislature in exchange for a number of appointments in the Government.

At mid-year this agreement fell apart but the effects have not been really serious since the administration has shown it can still get vital legislation passed and some of the former NPP members in the Government, notably the Foreign Minister, Professor Ishaya Adu, have remained in the Government.

More influence abroad

Internationally Nigeria, with a legitimate civilian government, inevitably carries more influence than when ruled by the military. At the Commonwealth Conference in Melbourne President Shagari was Africa's natural spokesman on Namibia.

At the international economic summit at Cancun he chose to speak on agriculture, a key priority of his Government's domestic policy, and Africa's biggest economic disaster area: its ever decreasing ability to feed itself despite plentiful cultivable land.

Nearer to home, Nigeria has shown particular concern

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Africa's leader and a growing force on the world stage

Nigeria emerged slowly on to the world scene but it is now vigorously striving to fulfil a role that measures up to its wealth and position as the most populous African state.

Independence came in 1960, three years after Ghana, at a time when Kwame Nkrumah was listened to as the voice of Africa, to the resentment of many Nigerians. The first Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, was a cautious man who on a famous occasion replied to Nkrumah's talk of internationalism by saying: "Let us put our own houses in order."

Then in 1966 came the spasms of two military coups followed by the agony of the long civil war. This brought an unwelcome prominence in world affairs and had a lasting effect on foreign relations.

The Soviet Union gained instant popularity by supplying without hesitation support and arms. The British Government was thought to be lukewarm, though correct, and this, combined with the huge and vocal pro-Biafra lobby, caused ill will that lasted for years. America similarly lost favour. In Africa, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Zambia and Tanzania all recognized the rebel régime, which punched a hole in Nigeria's Africa policy.

General Gowon, the great reconciler after the war, also worked hard on the international scene, travelling to Moscow, Peking, Canada and the Caribbean, and accomplishing a brilliantly healing state visit to Britain in 1973. He also played a crucial role in the creation in May, 1975, of the Economic Community of West African States, which has proved the most successful grouping in Africa and remains a major factor in Nigerian foreign policy.

General Murtala Mohammed, from July, 1975, and General Olusegun Obasanjo, from February, 1976, continued to make Nigeria more of a force in the world.

The most effective example of Nigerian pressure came in Angola when Portugal was getting out after the Lisbon coup of 1974. Much of the

rest of Africa, and notably America, was backing a proposal for a coalition administration, drawn from the three main contending parties. Nigeria (once General Gowon was off the scene) came out in favour of recognizing the MPLA as the sole legitimate government. The rest of Africa gradually followed suit.

The Nigerian military rulers also played a part in helping to bring Zimbabwe to independence, though how great a role is a matter of controversy.

The big gesture came on the eve of the Commonwealth Heads of State conference in Lusaka in August, 1979, when Nigeria suddenly sequestered British Petroleum's assets. This was meant as a warning shot across the Conservative Party's bows. Whether this was necessary or effective is debatable. It was certainly a claim to the leadership of Africa.

Since the civilians returned to power in October, 1979, President Shagari has been pressing that claim with increasing credibility. When Dr Chester Crocker, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, was travelling around drumming up support for the new Namibia proposals, one of his most important stops was at Lagos.

The ending of apartheid in South Africa has always been a main aim of Nigeria.

President Shagari, the most gentle and diplomatic of men, found it necessary to raise at a Buckingham Palace banquet the displeasure Africans felt over the continuing British investment, trade and other links with South Africa. Similarly, in a speech to the Foreign Policy Association in New York in October last year, President Shagari said: "We in Nigeria feel that the history of your country places on the Government and people of the United States a great responsibility to use your powerful international economic and financial position to discourage and, eventually, destroy apartheid in South Africa."

The Western Sahara problem has also engaged much Nigerian attention, again with more frustration than success. Relations with its neighbour Cameroon deteriorated sharply early this year

"The struggle of African peoples and governments to free their continent of apartheid should not be seen in terms of ideological differences between the East and the West. To allow conflict in ideology to determine your response to the evils of apartheid would be an unfortunate misreading of the psychology of the African."

Your policy towards South Africa has been largely dominated by a single-minded pursuit of economic and strategic considerations.

That democratic rule has returned to Nigeria has been widely welcomed in neighbouring countries, in many

of which there are renewed stirrings for greater freedom.

This is not to say that Nigerians are universally popular in the region. Both because of the country's power and the often harsh welcome accorded to visitors — both black and white — to Lagos, the charge of arrogance is often laid at their door.

But here too there are hopeful signs. Nigerians themselves are increasingly critical of the hostile attitude often shown to visitors to Lagos, and there are signs of an improvement in the law and order situation in the capital.

There are several serious constraints to economic growth, the most obvious being a lack of trained manpower at almost all levels, and infrastructural failures in sectors such as electricity supply, water and telecommunications.

Britain's stake in Nigeria's future is large. By far the largest foreign investor, the British are also the country's main supplier of goods, accounting for about 20 per cent of total imports.

Official relations, souring in 1979 by the nationalization of BP, are now again cordial following agreement on compensation and a number of positive developments.

That democratic rule has returned to Nigeria has been widely welcomed in neighbouring countries, in many

of which there are renewed stirrings for greater freedom.



A group of traditional rulers in obvious good humour leave a meeting with President Alhaji Shehu Shagari in Lagos. Although they have lost their constitutional powers, they are still consulted and continue to play an important part in Nigeria's complex political and social life.

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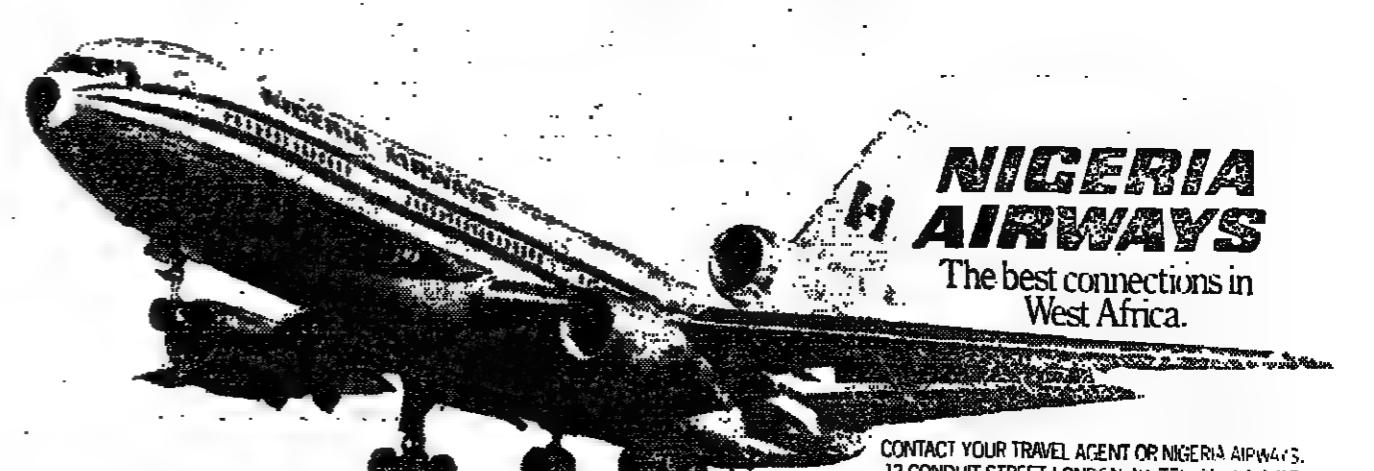
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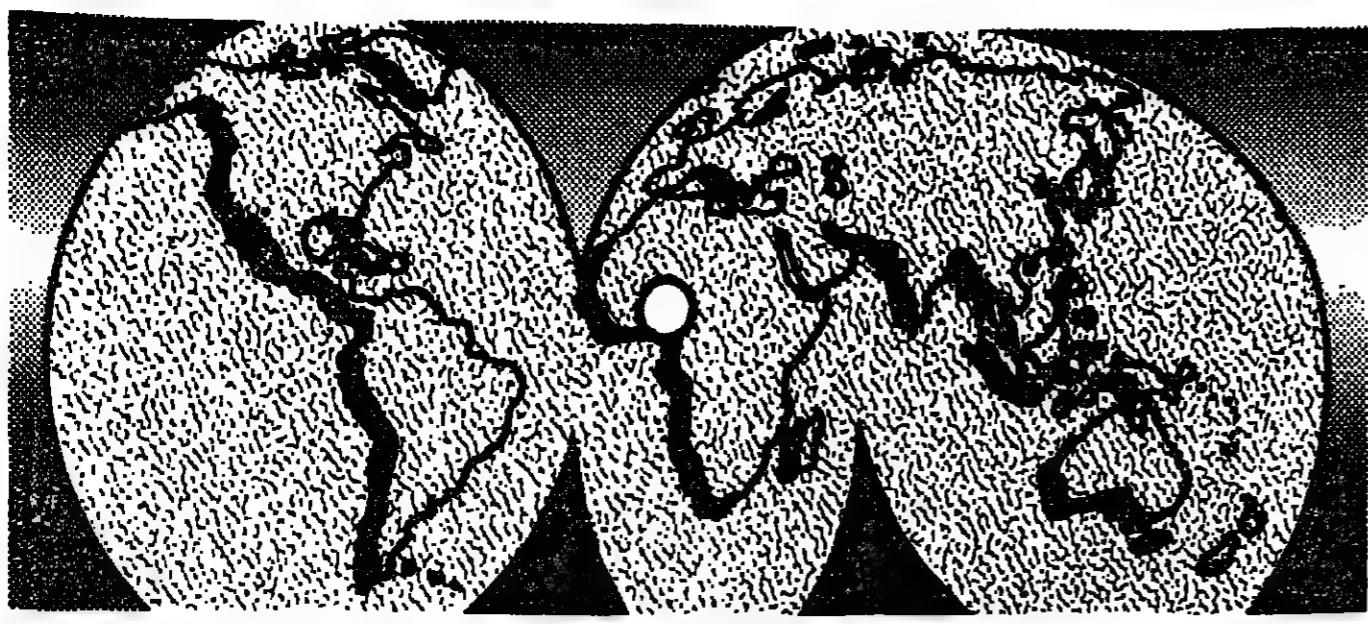
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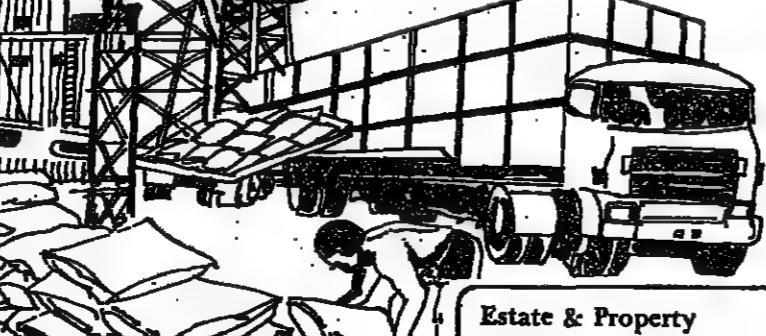
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Under the 1979 constitution the 19 state governments have wide-ranging functions. David Williams discusses their relationship to the Federal Government in Lagos and Karan Thapar explains the tribal divisions that still threaten national unity.

State versus nation

Only seven of the elected Governors, the "chief executives" of Nigeria's 19 states belong to President Shehu Shagari's party, the NPN. In these seven the NPN also controls a majority in the legislatures; it also controls the legislature in an eighth state, Kaduna, although there the Governor belongs to the PRP. The remaining eleven governorships, with the state assembly majorities, are divided between the other four registered parties, all of which are, to some degree hostile to the NPN. The UPN has five states, NPP three, GNPP two, and PRP one.

Under the 1979 civilian constitution the state governments have extensive functions. They are responsible, for example, for primary education and share responsibility with the Federal Government for other aspects of education. They are responsible for health services, agricultural extension work, and roads, except federal trunk roads.

They can sponsor scientific research. And while the Federal Government is responsible for major economic development and for direct economic relations with foreign governments or international bodies, a state government can undertake economic development of any kind, except mining, within its boundaries, make contracts with foreign firms and, under federal sponsorship, seek foreign loans or assistance. State governments are also responsible for supervision of local government within their areas, and for matters concerning chieftaincy, still a potent influence in Nigeria.

The President, although Chief Executive of the Federation, has no formal control over the governors. He is, however, responsible for the Nigerian police, who constitute a single force throughout the federation, and for the maintenance of public order, although state governments are given subordinate authority in this.

He is responsible, too, for the operational use of the armed forces. The President can also under most exceptional and restricted circumstances, declare, in any part of the federation, a state of emergency under which the National Assembly could supersede a state house of assembly and the President exercise executive authority in a state. A governor is also subject to the same legal restraints under the constitution as is the President — and to public "media" criticism — in other states if not his own. One governor and

one deputy governor have already been impeached and removed, although in each case a majority of the state legislature concerned was politically hostile to the accused official.

Some see the apparent independence of the governors and the domination of a majority of state governments by parties opposed to the President as threatening partial paralysis of the federal system. Others see the diffusion of some degree of power among all five registered parties as a safeguard for democracy in a context where total exclusion from the proposed overhead railway for which federal help is essential. The President's relations with governors belonging to hostile parties can never be easy, but by his quiet determination, Shehu Shagari appears now to have established himself as the older statesman to whom all the governors look for advice and help.

The demand arises partly from the belief, strongly held by many groups, that their particular area is neglected by the Government of the state where they now find themselves, and that they are discriminated against in official employment, etc, since



President Shehu Shagari: enhanced stature.

The formula under which another group is held to dominate the state, divided between the federal politicians of all kinds, however, the creation of new states has great attractions. A new formula, giving the states a much bigger share of this revenue (45 per cent), to five seats in the Senate and to a federal ministry. Each would have a general commissioners' (numerous) state boards and representation in various federal organisations, apart from any funds.

For many months after his installation as President, governors belonging to the UPN appeared, like the party's leader, Chief Awolowo, close runner-up in the presidential election, to be reluctant to acknowledge Shehu Shagari's position as Head of State. One UPN governor was publicly rebuked by the President for showing lack of respect to his office. The enthusiastic reception however, given to the President by the UPN Governor and the people of Oyo state during his official visit there last year marked a change.

This was confirmed this year by the invitation to the Governor of Lagos state — the state in which the President's party, NPN, made its worst showing in the general election — to inaugurate work on the proposed overhead railway for which federal help is essential. The President's relations with governors belonging to hostile parties can never be easy, but by his quiet determination, Shehu Shagari appears now to have established himself as the older statesman to whom all the governors look for advice and help.

A demand for smaller states

The states provide another, quite different, problem for the President. Demand for division of the existing states into smaller ones is now a major feature in Nigerian politics. If the National Assembly supports the most insistent demands and is able to satisfy the intentionally Byzantine provisions of the constitution concerning creation of states, there could be as many as 40.

The demand arises partly from the belief, strongly held by many groups, that their particular area is neglected by the Government of the state where they now find themselves, and that they are discriminated against in official employment, etc, since

the politicians impose no check on the new states' demands on unviable units, might proliferate, and in concert they can, whether he likes it or not, operate the constitution's provisions to create new states.

President Shehu Shagari has invited the parties to produce a realistic programme for state creation. How many new states he has in mind is not known, but everybody agrees that a small number, perhaps five, are, perhaps, inevitable.

The parties, including the NPN, however, are reluctant at this stage to commit themselves to a limit. The issue may complicate the 1983 general election. Its resolution also depends on the National Assembly's assent to the Electoral Bill now before it.

Further division of the existing states would make the Federal Government, in theory, even more powerful than it is, by increasing the number of its clients. But it meant that an increasing proportion of a national revenue which has recently declined is spent on administration, without a corresponding stimulus to productive economic activity. While the constituent units of the federation became even less competent than they are now to discharge their functions, the federation as a whole would be gravely weakened.

The author was editor of West Africa 1949-76.

Old divisions that die hard

The persisting threat to Nigerian unity is the seemingly ineradicable tribalism that underlies every political, social and often economic development. With more than 200 tribes and at least 100 different languages, with almost institutionalized distrust between its three main regional population groups, the Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba, and with irresponsible politicians only too happy to exploit ethnic divisions, the conscious need to create one nation remains the single most important priority of the new civilian government.

Though the fall of Biafra marked the end of the Nigerian Civil War 12 years ago, the issues fought then did not perish on the battlefield. The tribal distrust, the absence of political consensus and the many secondary divisions have survived. These basic Nigerian divisions, stilled for nine years under the post-war military dictatorship, are today emerging through the widening cracks that have begun to scar the two-year-old democracy.

These issues were most poignantly raised up in 1981 by a controversy over remarks by Malam Adamu Ciroma, the Minister of Industries. In a public speech, the Minister, a Northern Hausa Muslim, accused the Opposition Governor of Borno State of betraying the people's trust by employing non-Borno people in sensitive judicial and Cabinet posts. Referring to the Borno State Chief Justice, the chief Secretary and the Attorney General, the Minister called them "strangers" and "foreigners". The point is that they are Western Yorubas.

The incident grew out of all proportion. For the Yoruba-based Unity Party, it was conclusive proof of its favourite allegation of a self-perpetuating northern cabal controlling the country to the exclusion of all other tribal groups.

The Unity Party leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, has publicly and repeatedly accused the last military head of state, General Olusegun Obasanjo, of carefully contriving to hand over power to the largely northern-based National Party. He has even called on the Chief Justice of Nigeria to resign because he dismissed the chief's suit against the presidential election verdict. Although both General Obasanjo and Chief Justice Fatayi-Williams are Yoruba, they are treated by the Unity Party as traitors.

Perhaps the most divisive and polarizing of these in 1981 was the revenue allocation debate. It affected the share of state funds that accrue to the federal government, the 19 state governments and more than 400 local governments. The dilemma was whether a dependent and financially weak centre is more in keeping with the spirit and concept of the Nigerian federation or whether only a strong and omnipotent federal authority can keep the union together.

Although before the year's end the issue was decided, it was not before it had been

taken in vengeful litigation right up to the Supreme Court which invalidated the first revenue Act and in the process clearly exposed the fundamental lack of national political consensus which exists like a vacuum at the heart of Nigerian politics.

The various estimated 61 separate demands for new states is having a similarly divisive effect. The creation of 12 states in 1967 from the northern, western and eastern regions went a long way towards diminishing the regional solidarity that had come to threaten national unity in the tense days of the first republic (1960-66).

Historically, the seeds of trouble can be traced back to the moment in 1914 when a colony called Nigeria was created by the British. Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of Nigeria in the 1920s, described the country as "a collection of independent native states, separated from one another, by great distances, by differences of history and tradition, and by ethnological, racial, tribal, political, social and religious barriers."

In a very important sense, the 1979 electoral results, when after 13 years of military rule, four coups and three years of civil war, a return to civilian rule was being attempted, showed that political appeal corresponds closely with tribal affiliations and loyalty.

How the Unity Party swept into five tribal states

The three main parties, each of which won at least three of the 19 states, did best in their tribal strongholds. The Unity Party swept the five states of Yorubaland. The Ibo-based Nigerian Peoples Party was almost unopposed in Imo and Anambra States.

The issues that have, since the election, come to be focal points of national controversy have reflected persisting tribal undercurrents.

Perhaps the most divisive and polarizing of these in 1981 was the revenue allocation debate. It affected the share of state funds that accrue to the federal government, the 19 state governments and more than 400 local governments. The dilemma was whether a dependent and financially weak centre is more in keeping with the spirit and concept of the Nigerian federation or whether only a strong and omnipotent federal authority can keep the union together.

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clause demanding the re-election of the federal character in all spheres of government activity". This policy, designed to ensure equal representation to all tribes and groups in government offices and state-owned companies, is itself a victim of its own implications. For, when this means the replacement of Yorubas in Lagos offices by Hausas, hitherto considered backward and frequently relegated, it stirs new tribal fears among the Yorubas. They see their Hausa replacements as the thin edge of a northern wedge, as the beginning of political pay-offs for the men around the northern president.

This same basic distrust was repeatedly manifested in the crises which characterized the first republic. While the struggle for freedom had imposed a transitory and deceptive unity on the civilian politicians, once independence was attained all the dirt swept under the carpet was raked out again.

In rapid succession there was the 1962 action group crisis in the Western Region. The disputed censuses of 1962 and 1963, the riots of 1962-1965, the rigged general elections of 1964 and the almost totally fraudulent western regional elections a year later.

From 1966 to 1979 military rule snuffed out politics and so put a tight lid on the more obvious manifestations of tribal political alignments. But, the return to civilian rule in allowing the functioning of full and free political life has also reopened the old Pandora's box of ethnic divisions.

The irony is that whereas the strict impartiality of military dictatorship held the country united under its grip, the democratic tolerance and leniency of civilian rule could threaten the very fabric of nationhood.

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At a time when the world's attention is focused on the Nigerian crisis, the author looks at the political situation in the country and the impact it has on the people. The author is a former editor of the Nigerian Times and has been involved in the country's political and social life for many years. He believes that the current crisis is a result of the failure of the political system to address the fundamental issues facing the country. The author calls for a fundamental review of the political system and the introduction of democratic principles to ensure a more representative and accountable government.

ing functions. D
ment in Lagos
national unity.



A full shift, and a happy one, on the building site of the Aladja power station near Warri.

Nigeria's economy, which only six months ago looked in trouble, is now in good health and set to resume the steady growth which has made it the envy of the rest of Africa over the past decade

Oil prosperity has its drawbacks

Nigeria's main economic problem is that, like so many developing countries, its economic prospects depend on just one crop or commodity, in Nigeria's case: oil.

This single product provides more than 90 per cent of foreign exchange earnings and more than 80 per cent of government revenue, so the slightest hiccup in the volatile world oil market affects almost all sectors of economic activity in the country.

Last August oil production had fallen to 708,000 barrels a day or about one third of the 2,100,000 b/d achieved in January. This dramatic collapse in production was forced on the Nigerians because they maintained their high selling price in the face of a flat world market and determined high production rates by Saudi Arabia.

Now with orders restored in Opec ranks a price cut by the Nigerians, production is rapidly recovering and oil industry sources are predicting a return to production of over 2 million b/d early in 1982.

This should mean that there need be no serious cutback in the very ambitious development plans which are overwhelmingly dependent on oil revenues.

Because of recent oil production slump foreign exchange reserves, which stood at 5,600m naira at the end of 1980 had fallen to 4,500m naira at the end of September but the country's external finances are quite sound, with the foreign debt service ratio at a mere 5 per cent or so.

Presenting his 1982 budget proposals in December, President Shehu Shagari announced a number of measures to conserve foreign exchange: a reduction in personal and business foreign travel allowances and a reduction in allowable offshore costs for consultancy services from the present 30 per cent to 20 per cent terms of domestic finance. Next year's budget is a prudent, even conservative document since it appears to be based on the assumption of oil production running at 1,300,000 b/d at the current price of \$36.50.

Production has already risen well beyond this figure

so the federal Government should have no funding problems in 1982.

More worrying for the Government is the apparently unstoppable rise in the level of imports. In 1979 these ran at a monthly average level of 722m naira, and in 1981 this had risen to a monthly average of 1,200m naira.

Partly this results from the ordinary Nigerian's increased spending power and this in turn partly stems from the civilian government's more conciliatory—some manufacturers would say weaker—attitude to wage demands. In the last two years the minimum wage has risen from 70 naira to 125 naira per month.

The import bill is further inflated and government revenue reduced by smuggling which is believed to take place on a huge scale.

The Government recently announced a major shake-up in the customs service and the formation of a special crack unit to deal with the problem.

In the period of the fourth

Smuggling not only deprives the Government of revenue but costs jobs. In comparative terms Nigeria now has a high-cost economy and much of the manufacturing sector can only survive behind enforced tariff walls. This has been illustrated recently by failures and layoffs in the textile industry caused by the ready availability of cheap smuggled imports.

The overall thrust of President Shagari's economic policy is to diversify away from oil into manufacturing (including steel) and agriculture, the latter being a main personal concern of the President, who spoke on the subject at the international economic summit at Cancun.

The combined effects of the oil boom and the Sahel drought virtually killed off much of Nigeria's traditional cash export industry such as groundnuts in the north but even today about three of every four Nigerians live by the land.

In the period of the fourth

development plan (1981-1985) investment of \$8,000m is planned in the country's green revolution, the goal being food self-sufficiency by 1985, an unattainable target since this would require an annual 8 per cent increase in production and the plan only aims at 4 per cent, which most observers believe is itself ambitious.

The federal Government's will to revolutionise Nigerian agriculture is certainly there, not only in terms of investment targets, but in measures such as allowing foreign ownership of up to 60 per cent of equity in virtually all agricultural production and processing enterprises. But the main avoidable constraint in agriculture, as in all economic sectors, is a shortage of trained manpower.

At the very top of federal ministries and private enterprises alike are to be found a handful of Nigerian managers of the very highest quality, but below them there is a gaping void at the middle-management level.

Another constraint which is preventing the country benefiting more rapidly from its oil riches is the failure of parts of the economic infrastructure. Unreliable water supplies, frequent power cuts, and poor telecommunications all hinder economic development as does the habit of ignoring essential maintenance until plant actually breaks down.

Britain's stake in Nigeria's continued economic progress remains important national export market, making it the most important buyer of British goods outside Western Europe and the United States.

In 1980 British exports were worth about £1,200m and could top £1.5m in 1981, though up-to-date statistics are not available because of the strike by British civil servants in early 1981.

Strikes are now also an increasing feature of Nigerian economic life. The Central Bank says 870,000 man-days were lost in 1978, two million in 1979, and 2,350,000 in 1980.

Nigeria's oil wealth has had all sorts of unexpected results. Not only have some Nigerians become millionaires overnight, some of them via dubious deals and access to import licences, but the buying habits of ordinary Nigerians have also changed.

Ten years ago rice was a luxury item eaten perhaps at Christmas, while today it almost has the status of a staple. A similar story can be told of bread. In 1977 Nigeria imported 700,000 tonnes of wheat. In 1981 the figure was probably about 1,100,000 tonnes and this is expected to rise to two million tonnes by 1985—a threefold rise in eight years.

It is statistics such as these

—rather than the dramatic stories about Nigeria's millionaires—which point to the real change in the country's economy, and to the necessity for President Shagari's green revolution to succeed.

Godfrey Morrison



A tin miner at Jos, a hill station where British expatriates play polo.

STEEL

Going full blast

At a time when most of the world's steel industry is deep in recession and contraction, the Nigerian steel industry is on the point of taking off into a huge and (it is hoped) prosperous expansion.

Last month President Shagari commissioned Africa's largest and most advanced steel plant at Aladja, near Warri, in Bendel State. And last June he laid the foundation stone of the even bigger Ajakuta steel plant in Kwara State, which will come into production in the late 1980s.

Aladja uses the direct reduction method. Ajakuta is based on the blast furnace process of iron making. There are also rolling mills at Oshogbo, Jos and Katsina.

The birth of the Nigerian steel industry has followed a long labour, as it were. As long ago as 1958 feasibility studies and market surveys were being carried out.

There has also been an element of competition between the West and the Soviet block. The Nigerians might prefer to say that the birth of the industry is an example of international cooperation. It is certainly a demonstration of Nigeria's non-alignment.

A Soviet team of experts first came to Nigeria in 1967. After much investigation and debate a decision was taken in 1975 that the blast furnace plant should be set up at Ajakuta to use iron ore from Itakpe Hills (about 64km away) and a mixture of local and imported coals.

This involves a huge investment, about N2,500m in the first stage of the complex alone. This will result in a production capacity of 1,300,000 tons of steel a year, increasing to 2,600,000 tons in the second stage and 5,200,000 tons in the third stage.

A first only "long products" like bars, rods and beams, mostly for the building industry, will be produced. But in the later stages "flat products" like plates and sheets will be produced.

The total completion time for the project is six and a half years, but the first rolling mills should produce steel by June 1983.

The Aladja project began later, although it is in production first. It is also smaller, having a peak production of 2,500,000 tons a year, with one million tons in its first phase.

It was in some ways a

response to the Russian initiative. Some conservative Nigerians were concerned that so central a part of their economy should be dominated by the Soviet Union, and there was also concern in some Western quarters.

The Aladja contract was only signed in 1977, and the pace of construction has been remarkable. The consortium of companies involved are mostly German and Austrian, but there were also Indian, American and Swiss interests involved.

The international content of the Nigerian steel industry goes further. The Japanese are deeply involved in the construction of the Katsina mill; French companies dominate the civil engineering construction around Ajakuta (although Wimpey is building a N30m training centre); and Israeli interests are also involved.

The Aladja complex will use ore imported from Liberia and Brazil. The disadvantage of the direct reduction method, and the main reason a blast furnace is being built at Ajakuta, is that it demands a higher grade of iron ore than is at present available in Nigeria.

Kenneth Mackenzie



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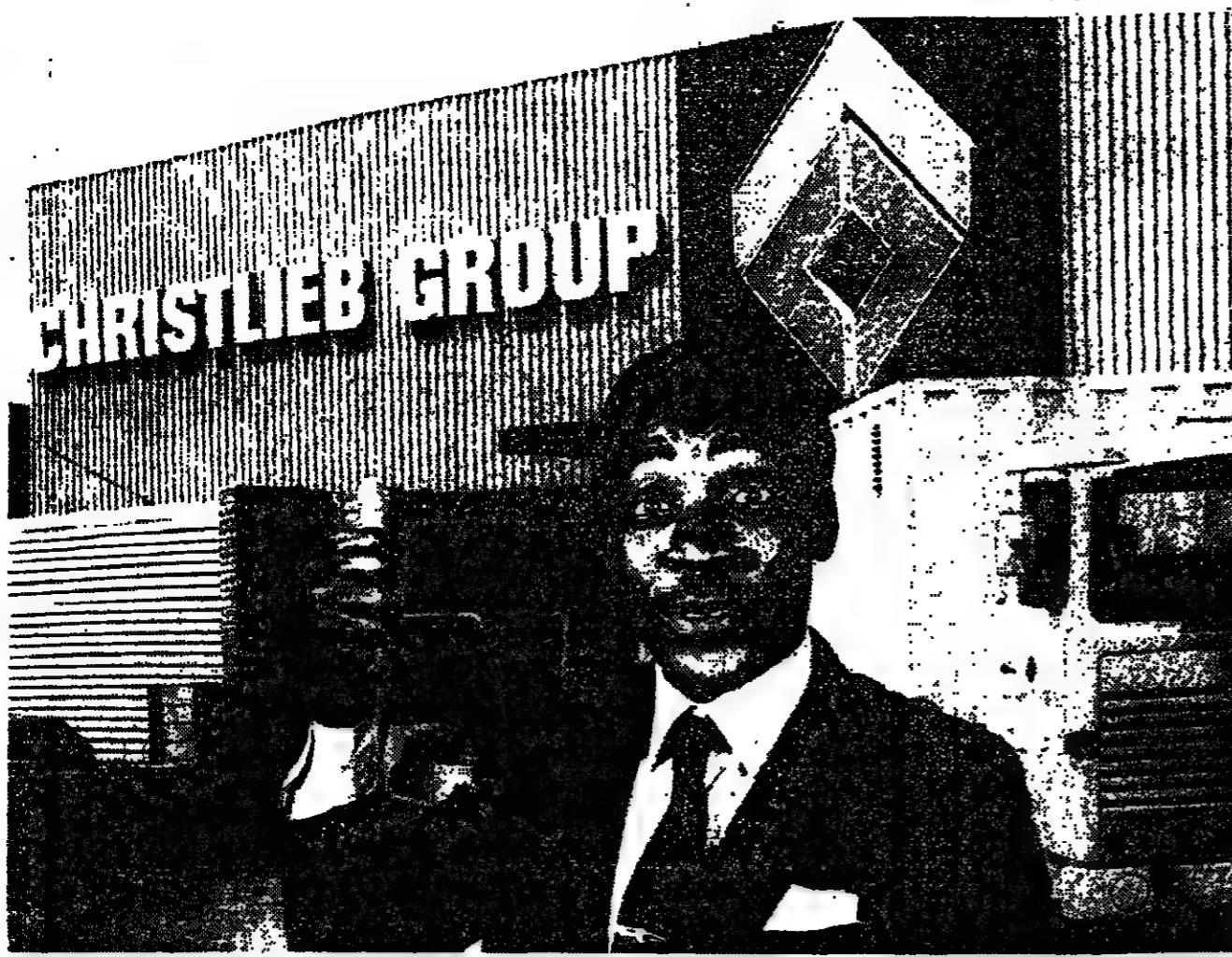
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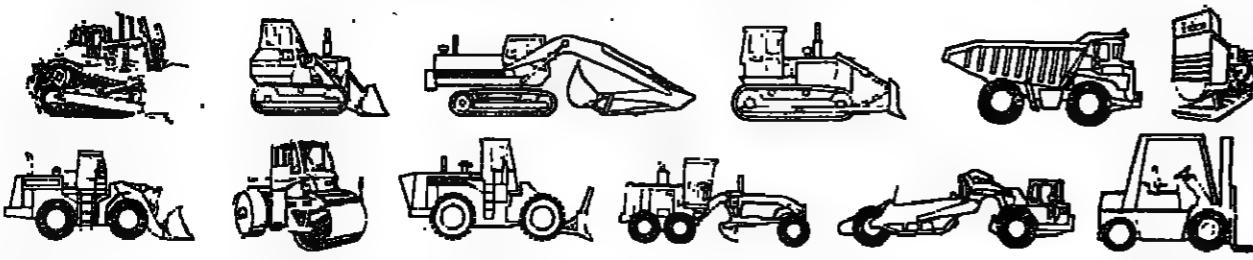
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Godfrey Morrison looks at the problems of coping with a population approaching 100 million and Henry Stanhope at the strategic imbalance left over from the civil war.

Money can't buy everything

Asked how many people there were in Nigeria, the European diplomat thought for a moment and then said: "a lot." This reply though at first sight unhelpful, is fair and accurate, because nobody knows what the total population now stands at. The results of successive censuses since independence have been rejected and have been the cause of major political controversy because of their implications for the ethnic balance, and therefore the political power balance, of the country.

Estimates now range anywhere between 80 and 100 million, making Nigeria by far the most populous country in Africa, and it means that more than one in every four black Africans is a Nigerian.

Population growth is estimated at somewhere between 2½ and 3 per cent per year. That Nigeria's economic planners face a daunting task, whether in the provision of health facilities, education or job opportunities, is underlined by the estimate that roughly half Nigeria's population is under the age of 15.

Nigeria's plans for the future are heavily biased towards economic growth rather than the provision of social services. Thus, though life expectancy is only 49 and

the country has fewer than 60,000 hospital beds, health services will get only 3 per cent of total expenditure under the 1981-85 development plan.

More will be spent on education, the states being responsible for primary education and federal spending going mainly on higher education. Increasingly, the emphasis is on vocational and technical training since Nigeria's main economic constraint is a lack of trained manpower at almost all

levels.

Unlike in many African

states where a chronic shortage of financial resources hinders development, in

Nigeria the problem is often

to spend the money available.

Universal primary education was officially introduced five years ago when enrolment rose to more than nine million compared to about 3,500,000 at the start of the decade. By 1980 about 13 million children were attending primary school and inevitably this enormous surge in attendance has led to problems. A high proportion of teachers are believed to be under-qualified and the standards of teaching are extremely low, particularly in parts of the North, which historically has always been less endowed with educational facilities. A Can-

dian educationist, told me he had visited a primary school whose headmaster was barely able to speak English, even though this was theoretically the language of instruction of his school.

Theoretically all primary education is free, though in some states financial difficulties have led to teachers not being paid, and in some cases fees being charged.

Through three-quarters of Nigeria's people still live in the countryside the drift to the urban areas has been very rapid, making Lagos and Ibadan probably the largest cities in Africa. As a result of natural increase and urban drift, Lateef Jakande, Governor of Lagos State, has estimated that Lagos is growing by 35 people an hour.

Despite massive investment on roads and other public services, services such as electricity and water simply cannot cope with this sort of growth, so power and water cuts are an everyday feature of life in the nation's capital.

Most businesses and many private homes are equipped with their own generators but the problems of life in Lagos make Nigerians and the foreign community alike look forward to the birth of the brand new capital being built at Abuja.

Just as Nigeria's towns act as a magnet for the country's

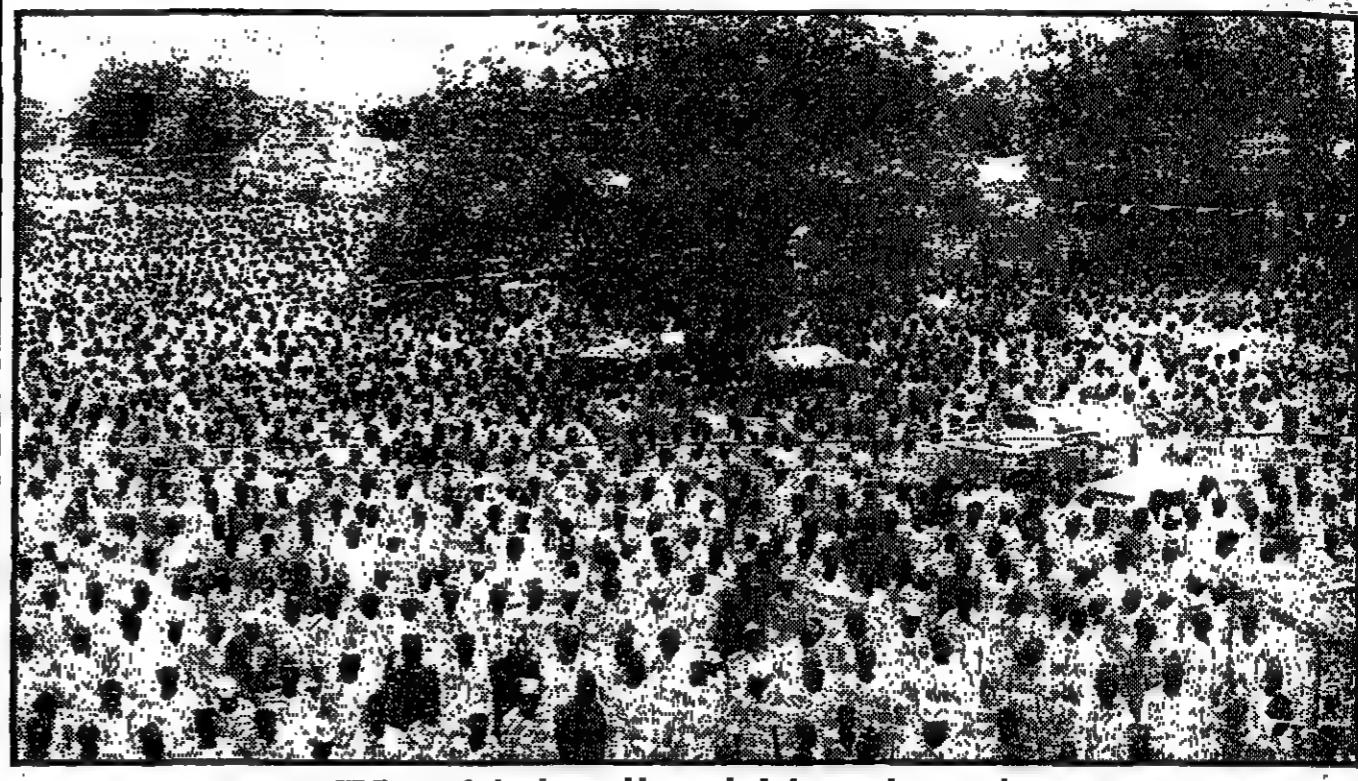
rural population so does Nigeria's wealth for people from the rest of West Africa.

Eventually the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), of which Nigeria is a member, will officially guarantee free movement of people throughout West Africa, but even now there is much emigration to Nigeria, much of it unauthorized.

No figures are available but many thousands of Ghanaians, Togolese and Basins have drifted to the Lagos area. In northern Nigeria people wander and drift across frontiers with even greater abandon and it is possible to meet nomadic people who can quite honestly say that they do not know whether, for example, they are Nigerians or citizens of neighbouring Nigeria. Where they live depends on the time of year.

The troubles in Chad have led to a major influx of refugees to north-eastern Nigeria around Maiduguri, some reports putting the figure as high as 100,000.

Not that the traffic is all one way. There are also many Nigerians in neighbouring countries — a particularly interesting example being the large Nigerian community in Sudan, most of whom are former overland pilgrims to Mecca who never made it all the way home.



While population is a problem, nobody is sure about numbers

Still recovering from war

The Nigerian Government has been trying to replace quantity with quality in its armed forces, thus redressing an imbalance which was created by the civil war.

The legacy of the war was an army of more than 230,000, the largest in Africa after Egypt, which suffered nonetheless from a shortage of first-class officers and NCOs and adequate accommodation.

To those problems have been added a mounting worry over equipment as weapons and support vehicles bought during the war have rusted away through lack of spares and maintenance.

Five years after the war ended, the Government was still having to pay out nine-tenths of the defence budget in the form of wages to the federal Government to do very much about this, the need for a systematic overhaul of the forces was increasingly obvious during the second half of the 1970s.

The rationalization process

is already well on the way to completion.

The army's

manpower is down to 140,000 — about the same size as the British Army — and is expected to go down to 120,000 in due course. And there are only 156,000 in the armed forces altogether, the navy totalling 6,000 and the air force 10,000 according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in the latest issue of *The Military Balance*.

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which is based on Kaduna, the second at Ibadan, the third at Jos and the fourth at Lagos.

The brigades are centred on other major towns in the country while a defence academy at Kaduna trains officer cadets on courses which can last for more than two years.

A staff college also opened near by in the mid-1970s. Seconded British officers and NCOs as well as Indians and other Commonwealth officers and other Commonwealth soldiers help in the training.

There are also arms schools to teach specialist skills, so Nigeria now has the machinery to train an efficient fighting force, if the Government can succeed in making it work properly.

Recruiting is voluntary for all arms, and causes no special problems in a country where military service is looked upon as a privilege to be coveted. Far greater are the problems posed by tribal rivalries and by civilian elites.

Equipment though is mixed and in short supply. Because a number of western countries were reluctant to be seen to be fuelling the civil war by providing equipment for the expanded army, the Nigerians turned to the Soviet Union, with the result that their only battle tanks are 65 T-55s. Then there are 50 British Scorpion light tanks and a blend of civilian armoured cars and troop carriers.

The international flavour which is in effect pouring about a tenth of its national budget into defence, also wants to build up its own arms industry by including licensing and co-production agreements in its armaments deals.

Participants in United Nations and other peacekeeping missions had provided the armed forces with the opportunity for foreign training and experience. It had also given the troops a sense of purpose, which is important in the vacuum following the civil war.

Meanwhile western countries are anxious to do business with the Nigerians, for political as well as economic reasons. Nigerian suspicion of the Soviet Union and Soviet ambitions in Africa has made the country an ally of the United States in Africa before the end of this century. But it will certainly need western help along the way. That help will be forthcoming if the Lagos Government can continue to prove that it is leaning in the right direction.

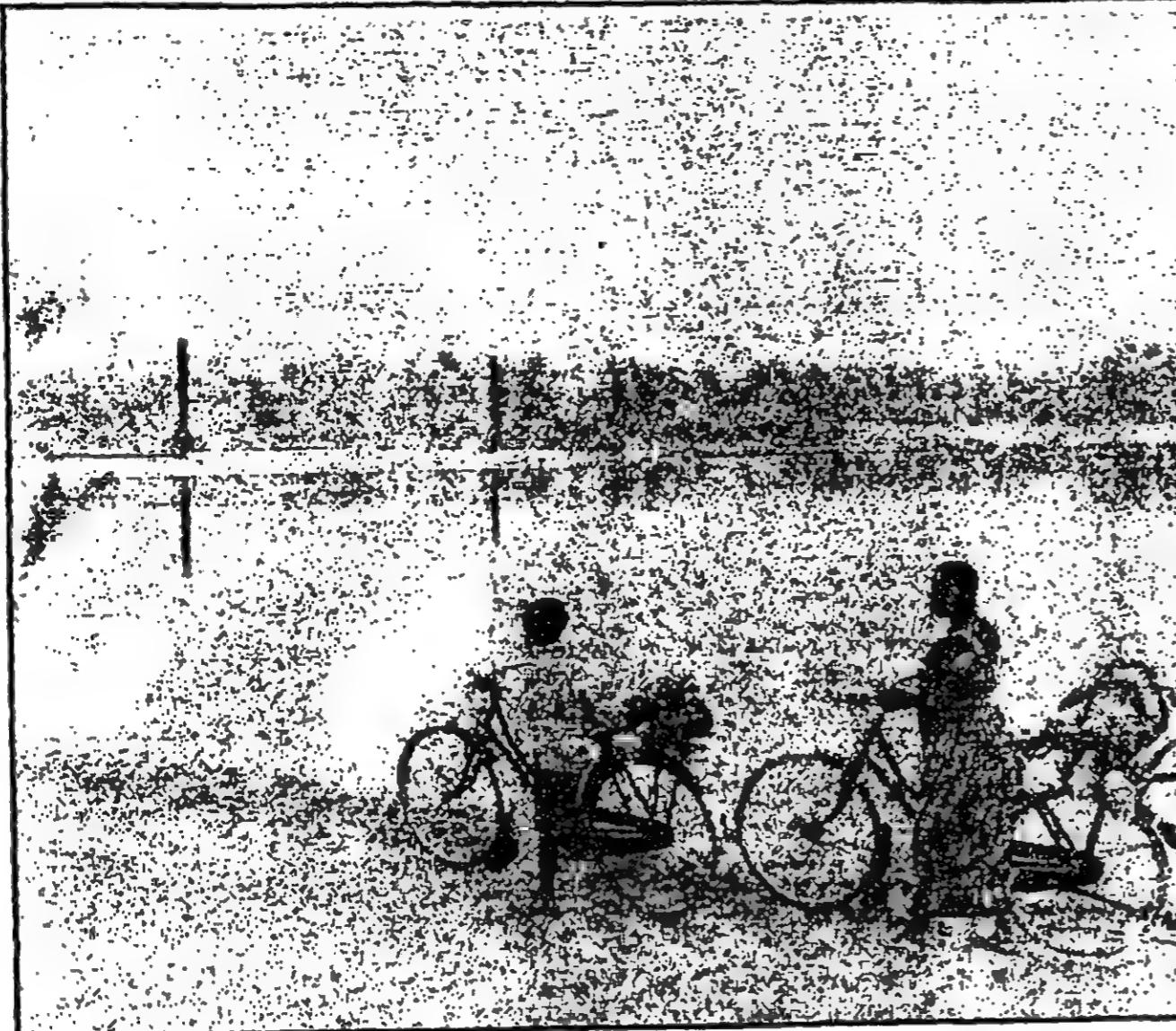
The author is Defence Correspondent of *The Times*.



Westland/Aerospatiale Lynx — more British and French equipment is on order

tion approaching
from the civil war.

thing



Natural gas burns away... an asset Nigeria has not yet harnessed.

OIL

The sweet life with Bonny Light

There are two things that the United States and western European buyers like about Nigeria's oil. Firstly "Bonny Light", as it is known, is a very sweet oil with sulphur content of less than 0.3 per cent. The other thing they like is that Nigeria is not in the Middle East, with all its attendant political uncertainties.

The Nigerians obviously appreciate their oil because it is providing them with the revenues which they hope will transform Africa's most populous country into a modern industrial state.

But their dependence on oil for such a high proportion of export earnings (more than 90 per cent) and government revenues (over 80 per cent) has its disadvantages and this was painfully demonstrated over the past year.

In January 1981 production averaged 2,100,000 barrels per day (b/d) and was being sold at a price of \$40 per barrel. But Opec was in disarray and the international oil market turned soft partly because of continuing recession in Western economies damping down on demand, and partly because Saudi Arabia stubbornly maintained a high production rate in the face of this situation.

By March production fell to 1,880,000 b/d and by June it had slumped to 1,350,000 b/d and finally in August it reached a mere 708,000 b/d.

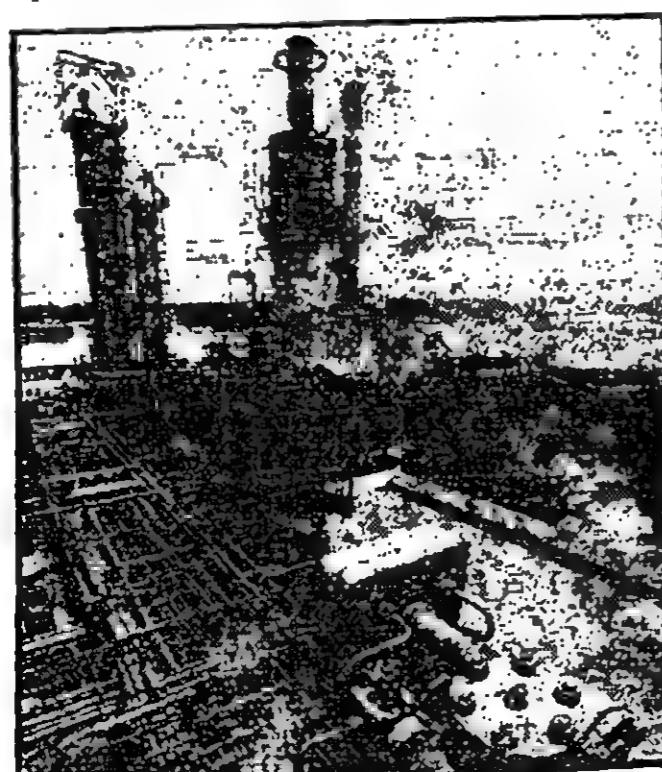
As a result there was much alarmist talk of an impending balance of payments crisis, of the need for emergency import controls and for a need to drastically to prune spending on the development plan.

With the benefit of hindsight it is possible to argue that the Nigerians, by sticking grimly to their \$40 per barrel price for so long in the face of an increasingly soft international market, succeeded only in harming themselves economically.

But things might have turned out differently, the volatile market might have stabilized and the Saudis might have relented and reduced their production.

In any event the Nigerians in August lowered their price to \$36 per barrel and in October they changed their credit terms from 30 to 120 days but said that if payment

Godfrey Morrison



Exports are based 90 per cent on oil

Where there is oil there is natural gas. This should be an additional asset but in Nigeria 96 per cent of the gas output of its oilfields is flared (as opposed to about 50 per cent in the Middle East oilfields). Travelling through Rivers State, for instance, one sees orange flares above wellheads lighting up the night sky. They are picturesque, but obviously a gross waste of a valuable source of energy.

This is something that has worried the Nigerians for some time. In the early 1970s the military government passed a decree which banned the flaring of gas after 1984. The trouble is that to convert the gas into a marketable asset is a difficult and expensive operation.

However, the oil companies and the Nigerian officials got together and in 1978 Bonny LNG was formed. LNG stands for liquefied natural gas and Bonny is the name of the town in Rivers State where a plant was to be set up to convert the gas into liquid form so that it could be shipped to buyers in America and Europe. This called for an investment of about \$15,000m one of the biggest projects of its kind in the world.

Things were going well. A consortium of buyers had been lined up. Some \$82m had been spent on planning and preparation, and

although there was nothing to be seen at Bonny but a muddy building site, experts had hoped that deliveries of the liquefied natural gas might begin in 1986.

However things have now struck a snag. The Nigerian Government seems hesitant about investing the sort of money that is needed — about 1,600 million naira over the next five years.

In presenting an outline of his Government's Fourth Development Plan to the National Assembly in January 1981, President Shagari said that the project was "rather too big to be implemented alongside the other major projects to be implemented during the Fourth Plan period."

The President added: "The Government, however, remains committed to the implementation of the project and will vigorously pursue its execution in cooperation with the private sector and financing institutions."

The proposal was to put the starting date for work on the project back to 1984, and in the meantime to invest only N300m to keep things ticking over.

The oil company experts found it difficult to believe that the Government really meant this and they gained some reassurances from senior men in the Nigerian

Government. However, these proved illusory.

Phillips has now withdrawn from Bonny LNG. Its share was only 7% per cent, but the serious thing is that Phillips had provided the management of Bonny LNG on secondment. The company has since 1968 operated successfully a similar plant in Alaska. Its withdrawal must throw the whole project into

uncertainty. The advantage to the purchaser of liquefied gas is that it can be stored relatively easily and fed into their supply systems at time of peak demand — in winter, for instance. Delicate timing is needed if the project is to be successful. Continuous production must be maintained, with a tanker ready to come in at the previous winter leaves.

Stable relationships with customers are essential. Twenty-year contracts were being negotiated and were, in fact, ready to be signed in December 1980. Arrangements had been made for ceremonies and celebrations in Lagos. At the last moment it was discovered that the directors of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation had all been suspended because of an inquiry into an alleged book-keeping fault. The ceremonies had to be cancelled.

The benefits to Nigeria of a liquefied natural gas scheme would be huge. There would be profit from the government share in Bonny LNG; profit from transporting the gas by pipeline; tax from the oil companies' profits; and fairly cheap gas available for local consumers.

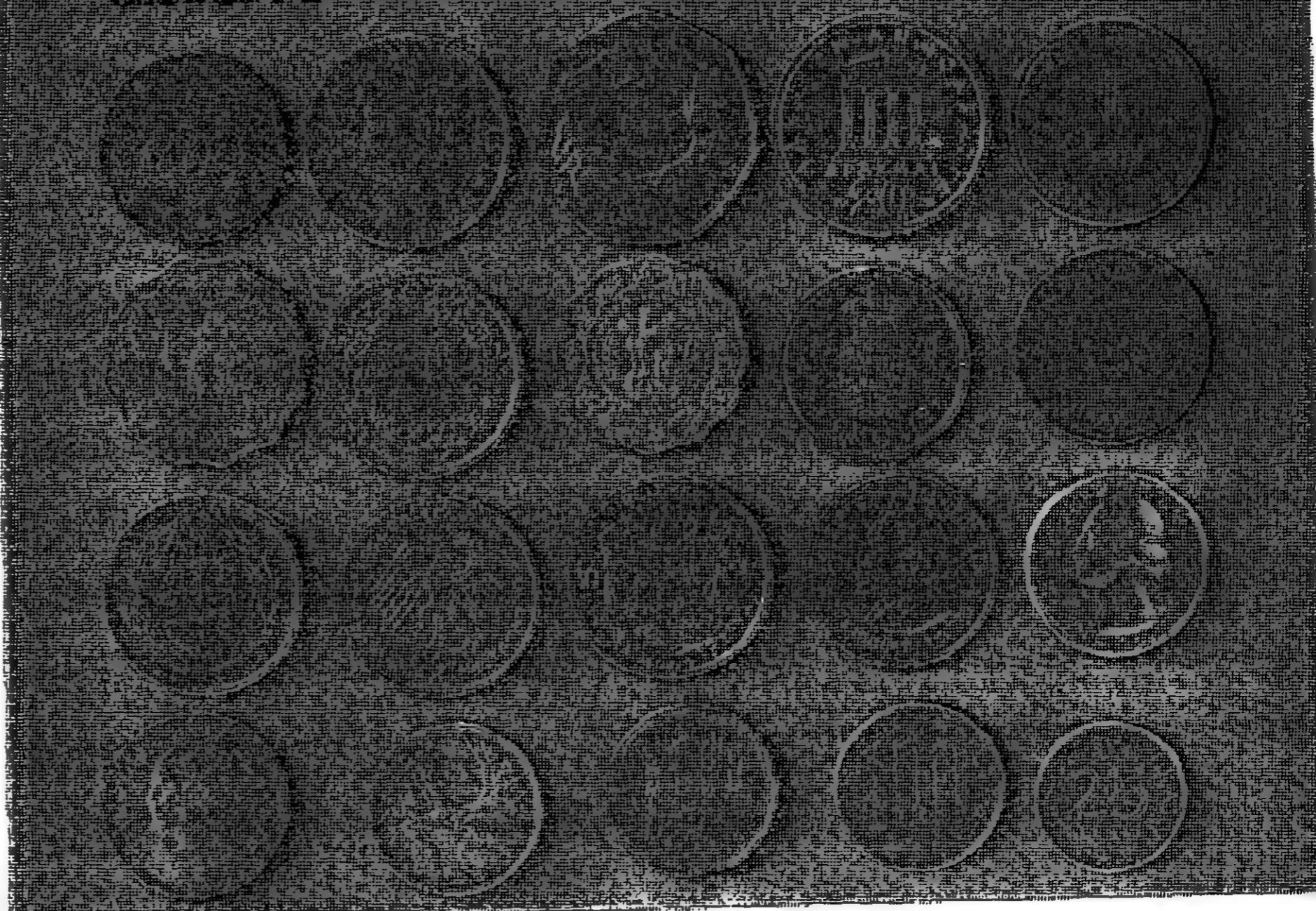
Most important, it would mean that a national asset was no longer wasted.

Kenneth Mackenzie

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We set the pace...



President Shagari's commitment to agriculture is as vital as the role of the small farmer like the one below, watering a crop of sweet peppers in the north.

Far left: some of the country's 12m cattle.

Left: Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau, Minister of Agriculture.

Facing page: checking the corn crop at the Gusau Demonstration Farm in the north west — part of a massive project involving 68,000 families financed with the aid of a \$19m loan from the World Bank. Agriculture's share of gdp has fallen from 60 per cent at independence to 21 per cent today, but a seven-year target has been set for the revival of cash crops.



Agriculture is at last being given the priority it deserves and by 1985 the Government hopes to return to self-sufficiency in food. Guy Arnold analyses its role in national planning and, on the facing page, Alan Rake traces the background to the decline in farm exports

The need for a green revolution

Three quarters of Nigeria's population, which is now increasing at 2.5 per cent a year, are dependent upon agriculture and live in the rural areas. Oil and the attractions of industrialisation over the past decade have led to massive neglect of agriculture so that today Nigeria has ceased either to feed itself or to export food commodities on any scale as once she did.

Food now accounts for about 15 per cent of imports at an annual cost of 1,000m naira. Hopefully, however, this trend is about to be reversed. Thus, while during the 1970s an average of only 6½ per cent of federal spending went on agriculture this increased to 11.3 per cent for 1980 and 12.7 per cent for 1981. The rural-agricultural sector at last appears to be receiving the money and attention it so urgently deserves.

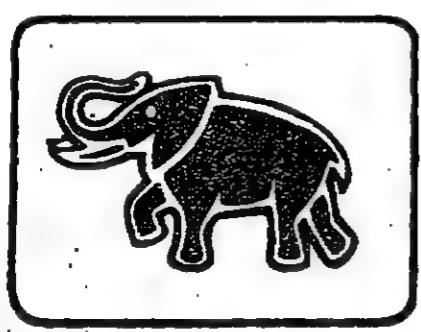
The 1980 ILO Report for Nigeria, *First Things First* — said: "One of the surest routes to sound economic growth in Nigeria would be improved health, through improved nutrition, water supplies etc". These things go to the heart of any rural-agricultural programme. Basically Nigerian farmers need to learn better methods of food production. The report stressed that the sector required more federal spending, land reform and general priority attention. The present Government, it would appear, is giving such priority to agriculture: it is not before time.

President Shagari has made plain his commitment to agriculture. When he introduced the Fourth Plan he said the emphasis should be on "direct assistance to small farmers in the form of extension services, improved seeds, fertilisers, credits, tractors and implements, grain stores and land clearance".

The plan targets include: encouraging private business to undertake large scale farming; cooperatives; subsidised fertiliser; an increase in the number of available extension workers. This, indeed, may be the most important (and also hardest aim) to achieve. At present Nigeria has about one extension worker to 2,500 farmers (in Kenya the figure is one to 250 and the ideal is one to 50); the target is one to 800. It represents a massive reduction to achieve.

Under the Fourth Plan (covering 1981-1985) about 13 per cent of total resources will go to the rural sector so that it does appear that agriculture is at last receiving the attention it requires. Much has already been said about Nigeria's green revolution although as yet it is too early to say whether it will achieve its targets. The basic strategy is to eliminate restraints and improve the rural infrastructure. By 1985 it is hoped again to make Nigeria self-sufficient in food and in seven years to have returned the country to the position of being a major food exporter as it was at independence.

Special emphasis is being given to irrigated agricultural projects as well as rural water supplies; the problem of post-harvest losses through bad storage is being tackled while a target has been set to raise the present ratio of 15 grammes meat to 100 grammes of grain.



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Cash crops could be the answer

At independence in 1960, Nigeria produced only a trickle of oil. It formed 2.6 per cent of export earnings compared with more than 90 per cent which came from a wide range of tropical crops and timber. Nigeria was the leading producer in Africa of groundnuts, groundnut oil and cake and of palm kernels and palm oil.

In 1970, after the Nigerian civil war, crude oil accounted for only 40 per cent of export earnings while agricultural cash crops held a greater share. But in the decade that has followed, agricultural exports, with the exception of cocoa, a little rubber and a few specialized crops, have dried up.

The production of groundnuts was once more than a million tons. Great pyramids of groundnut sacks were the hallmark of northern cities like Kano at the end of the harvest season and the lorries and trains rolled endlessly to the ports. An optimistic World Bank team which visited the country in 1971 projected production of 1,400,000 tons by 1980 and 2,100,000 tons by 1984. Instead, exports stopped altogether in 1975 and there has been insufficient production even to feed the local crushing mills.

The World Bank team suggested that palm kernel production would reach 425,000 tons by 1980, but production reached a peak in 1976 and then collapsed to today's level of about 50,000 tons. Massive investment in new crushing mills in the mid-1970s went to waste as the supply of palm kernels, even for local processing, began to dry up. Instead the Nigerian consumer both in the country and the rapidly

growing towns began to use more oil for his own cooking requirements.

Today Nigeria is a huge importer of palm oil. Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau the Minister of Agriculture, said lately that vegetable oil imports cost the Federal Government about 125m naira annually. Nigeria whose name was once synonymous with the nineteenth century palm oil trade, is next year, expected to import 25,000 tonnes of palm oil.

The production of rubber, which was badly affected by the neglect and devastation of plantations during the war, recovered to peak exports of 61,000 tons in 1974. Since then exports have remorselessly declined year by year to some 30,000 tons.

In cocoa, Nigeria was the second largest exporter after Ghana and cacao production was traditionally the second most important export. In 1965 production reached a peak at 310,000 tonnes, a little less than a quarter of total world production.

Today, the average crop is between 150,000 and 170,000 tonnes and Nigeria has already fallen behind the Ivory Coast and Brazil as a producer.

The Commodity Board purchases in 1980 were 23 per cent lower for cocoa, palm kernel and rubber in 1980 than in 1979. And loans to farmers under the agricultural credit guarantee scheme were also considerably down over the same period.

One explanation for the decline in Nigeria's agricultural exports is that farmers have been switching from export crops to food crops to feed the rapidly growing population, particularly in the towns. But there is scant

evidence that this switch had been going on except in particular areas. The Minister of Agriculture said that Nigerian food imports had passed the N1,000m mark in a speech he made on World Food Day. He blamed Nigeria's inability to feed itself on lapsided planning in the past and grossly inadequate public and private investment in the agricultural sector.

Despite promises by successive Nigerian governments that agriculture would be given priority, agriculture's share of the gross domestic product had declined from 60 per cent at independence to 21 per cent today, while the service sector and transport, particularly when related to the oil business, has grown proportionately.

Why does fuel drive out food? The reasons obviously go far deeper than the wrong government policies of the past, that are now widely admitted. The creation of oil wealth has upset the whole social balance between the cities and the rural areas.

Cocoa farmers are typical. Both the farmers themselves and the cocoa trees are aging. The younger generation, disengaged by life in rural areas, has deserted for the towns, leaving the older farmer stuck in his traditional ways and not carrying out sufficient maintenance or disease prevention, let alone the replanting of cocoa trees which must be carried out every couple of decades if production is to be maintained.

Palm oil plantations have been similarly neglected. Frequently the fruit is not harvested and plantations are allowed to go back to bush. The older farmer cannot cope.

He abandoned cash crops first because prices were too low and switched to growing food crops because the prices they fetched were higher and because they could be marketed direct rather than through the agents of the marketing board.

Then gradually farmers began to grow only enough to meet their own requirements. As their children left for the towns, the spirit of enterprise and the necessity for more food left with them.

The present Government is doing more than any of its predecessors to stem the decay. President Shagari, a keen farmer himself, sincerely believes that agriculture should be a priority. In April 1980 he launched yet another attempt to revive agriculture through the "green revolution". In the 1981 budget N620,000m or 12.7 per cent of the capital programme was devoted to agriculture, the highest-ever level in recent times.

Recently President Shagari said that he was "quite satisfied" with the progress being made in the states. He said that the harvest for the first year of the programme, which aims to make Nigeria self-sufficient in food before the end of the Fourth Plan Period (1985), was just coming in.

One of the plan targets is "the increased production and processing of export crops with a view to expanding and diversifying the country's foreign exchange earnings." A seven-year target is being set for the revival of cash crops.

The marketing boards now pay the highest prices for the main cash crops anywhere along the West African coast. For cocoa for example, the Nigerian farmer gets the equivalent of £1,000 per tonne compared with £800 in Ghana, £553 in the Ivory Coast and £540 in Cameroon.

Next year unless the world cocoa price averages over £1,100 per tonne the Nigerian Cocoa Board, hence the Federal Government, will actually be subsidizing farmers without leaving any fat to meet administrative and transport expenses.

But clearly price incentives alone have not yet been enough to bring about a revival in the production of export crops. Under the plan priority goes to the food production sector.

There has been much criticism, lately, of the green revolution for putting too much emphasis on state-run, large-scale mechanized projects. Professor H. A. Olowoselu, the former Vice-Chancellor of Ife University, said in a World Food Day speech that "Large government farms would neither pay their way nor yield the expected returns in cheap and abundant food... government institutions and organizations are not designed to manage commercial ventures which require close personal attention."

The First National Seminar on the green revolution held in October also criticized the Government approach for concentrating on the main state projects and preventing millions of farms from getting the necessary inputs.

Instead it had allowed groups not actually engaged in food production to profit. In its official communiqué at the end of the meeting, the seminar emphasized that caution should be exercised in encouraging large-scale mechanized farming. It called for a National Office of Peasant Mobilization under the direct control of the President, with its main purpose being to organize farmer cooperatives before 1985.

It is when the peasant farmer is convinced that it is worth his while to revive cash crop production that the current decline will be halted. Unfortunately there are few signs of this happening yet.



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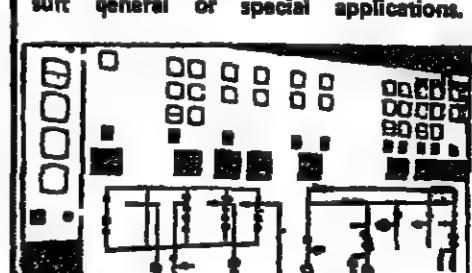
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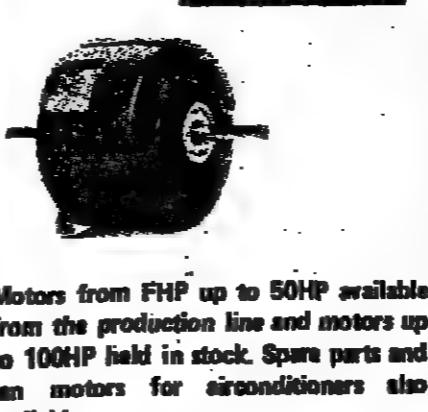
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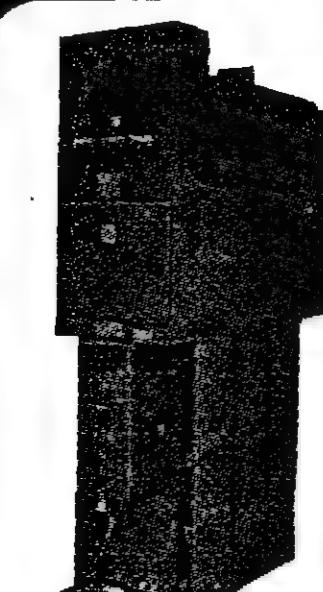
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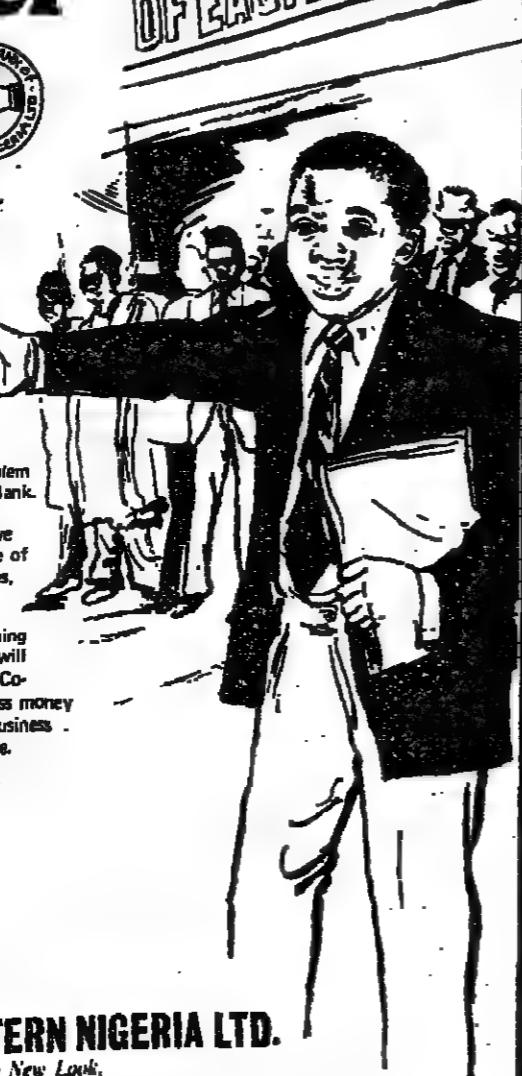
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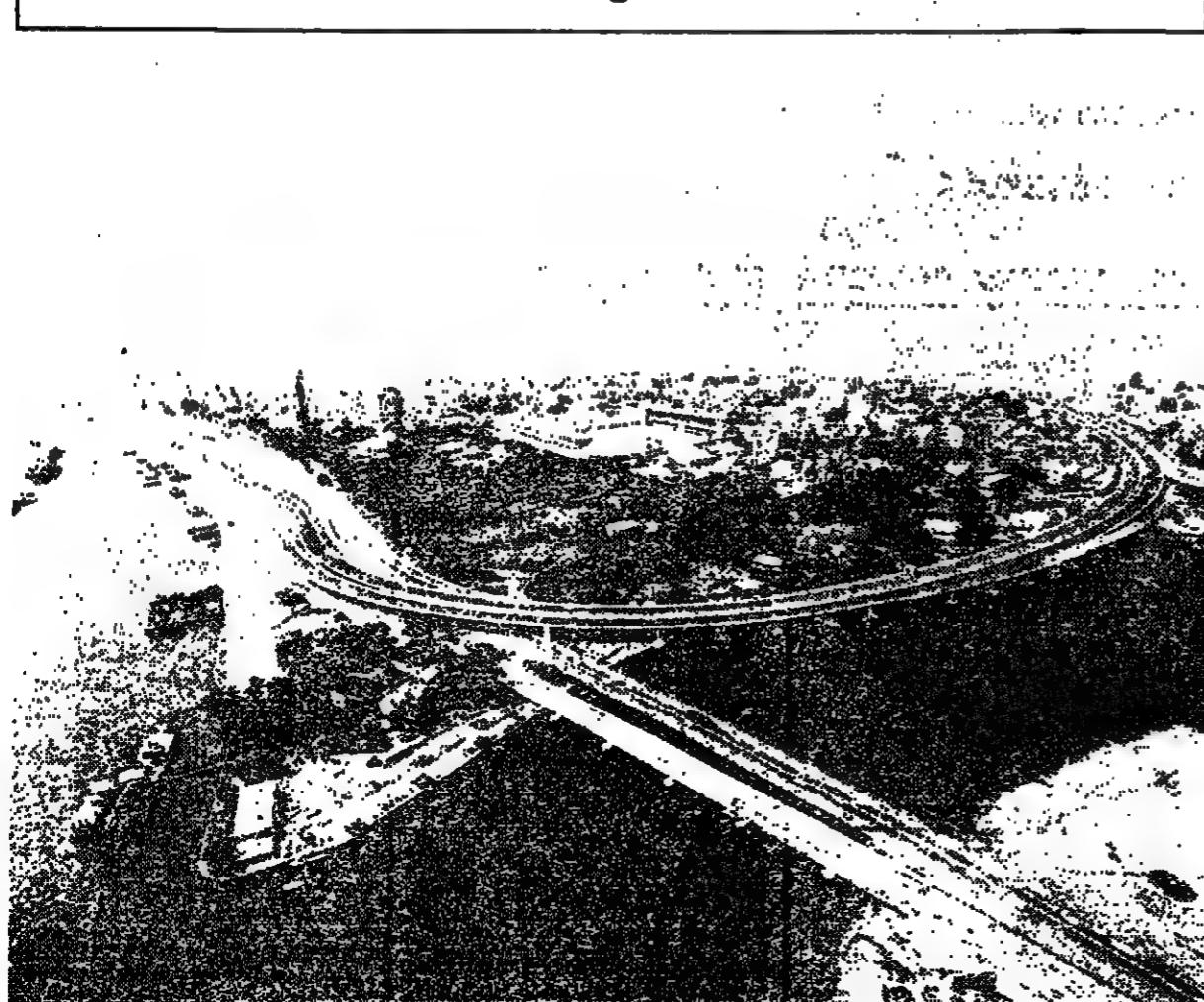
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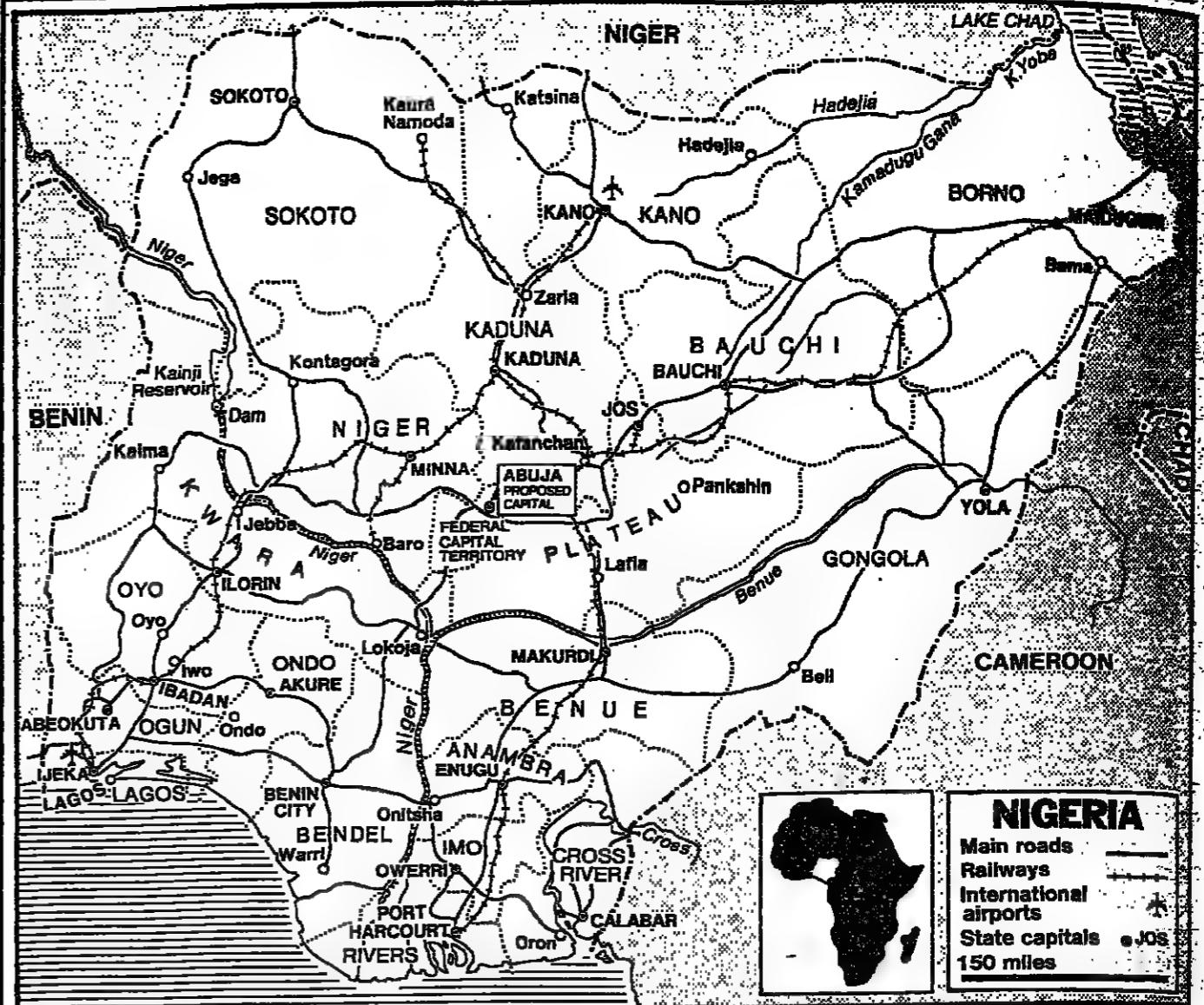
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مختبر الأصل

NIGERIA

Government Economy National Development Main Cities and Towns Statistics



FOCUS

Government

After 13 years of military rule Nigeria returned to a civilian administration in October 1979. It is a federal republic within the Commonwealth and its presidential system is based on the American model.

There are 19 states with elected members, chosen from the five registered political parties, in the Senate and House of Representatives. The dominant party is the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) and its leader is Nigeria's President, Shehu Shagari. The NPN election manifesto described the party as the only one "formed out of nationwide consultation and consensus" which, if elected, would work for an open society and a prosperous and self-reliant economy based on a strong agricultural sector and rapid industrialization with encouragement for private enterprise and foreign investment. The NPN was generally regarded as standing somewhat to the right of centre.

The President's running-mate in the election for the vice-presidency was the 46-year-old Dr Alex Ifeanyi Ekweme, a distinguished Ibo architect from Anambra State who had not previously played an active part in politics.

The NPN holds seven states: Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Kwara, Niger, Rivers and Sokoto. Although there is no constitutional recognition of an official opposition party, the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), led by Chief Obafemi Awolowo, undoubtedly sees itself in that role. The UPN, which proclaims itself a democratic socialist party, holds five states: Badagry, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo.

The Nigerian People's Party, led by Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, holds three states: Anambra, Imo and Plateau, and the other two parties, Greater Nigeria People's Party (GNPP) and People's Redemption Party (PRP), each hold two. Borno and Gongola (GNPP) and Kano and Kaduna (PRP).

The next elections are to be held in 1983, and all five parties are already making preparations.

National Development Plan

Nigeria's fourth National Development Plan, which came into effect in January 1981, provides for an investment programme totalling N62bn (nearly £70bn) in the five years to 1985. That target seems likely to be retained despite the fall in oil earnings which the Government would have no difficulty in borrowing any necessary funds to finance the plan.

Priority is given to the redevelopment of Nigeria's agriculture with an allocation of N10.7bn for that purpose. Education and manpower development are also high on the list and other recipients will be manufacturing (N6.4bn), housing (N2.7bn), defence (7.3bn) and the development of the federal capital territory at Abuja (N2.5bn).

It is expected that N70.5bn of the funds required will come from the public sector and the other N11.5bn from private investment.

Main Cities and Towns

Population Estimated at 90 million

Lagos (population estimated at 3,500,000) Capital, principal commercial centre and main port
Kaduna (150,000) Notable for textile mills
Kano (295,000) Main commercial centre in the north
Jos (90,000) Capital of Plateau State. Centre for tin and other mining industries and agriculture
Sokoto (90,000) Industries include a cement factory, a tannery and agriculture
Maiduguri (140,000) Capital of Borno State. Centre for groundnuts and hides and skins
Ilorin (208,000) Capital of Kwara State. Industries include cigarette and match factories, sugar growing and coal mining
Ibadan (about 2 million) Capital of Oyo State. Produces 95 per cent of Nigeria's cocoa. Main university town
Benin City (100,000) Capital of Edo State. Main industries: sawmilling, rubber processing and brewing
Warri (100,000) Important oil port
Port Harcourt (180,000) Capital of Rivers State. Major port and important oil centre
Calabar (75,000) Capital of Cross River State
Enugu (138,000) Capital of Anambra State. Badly affected by civil war but now growing again in importance
Bauchi (38,000) Capital of Bauchi State
Mimna (60,000) Capital of Niger State
Ikeja (9,000) Capital of Lagos State
Makurdi (54,000) Capital of Benue State
Owerri (26,000) Capital of Imo State
Abeokuta (187,000) Capital of Ogun State
Yola (17,000) Capital of Gongola State
Akure (71,000) Capital of Ondo State

Leading Companies and Corporations

United Africa Company (originally a subsidiary of Unilever, now State-controlled)
Delta Steel
SCOA Nigeria
Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation
Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry (the Federal Government Development Bank)
Boskalis Westminster
PZCochrane
IBRU
African Petroleum (formerly BP Nigeria)
Nigerian Paper Mill
Trianes
Niger Construction
International Computers (Nigeria)

Inadequate Statistics

In the annual report of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) published in October 1981 the following comments are made:

"Once again we have to place on record that it has become increasingly difficult for the CBN to analyse the performance of the economy in general, and appraise the effectiveness of policy in particular, due to inadequate data. At the time of writing

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FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Business marriages of convenience

Investing in Nigeria requires patience as well as money but it can be rewarding; a survey of some 70 manufacturing companies in the country showed an average annual profit for the five years 1975-80 of 39 per cent (of equity) pre tax and 20 per cent after tax. Those five years included a sharp domestic recession.

It has to be remembered, however, that virtually all investment in Nigeria has to be in partnership, using that world, colloquially, rather than with legal precision, with Nigerian interest, which may be official or private. Certain business activities are reserved for solely Nigerian interests, by the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Act, more usually referred to as the Indigenization Act.

In other activities Nigerians must hold at least 50 per cent or 40 per cent of the equity but, as General Obasanjo observed when he introduced the decree, 40 per cent of a business in Nigeria is worth more than 100 per cent in half the other countries of the world. The categories in which non-Nigerians may invest cover a very wide range of activities, and Nigeria's need for industrial investment is wide.

The guide lines for the fourth national development plan allowed for 11,500m naira of private investment over the period of the plan, 3,000m naira of that being allocated for manufacturing. Admittedly, the plan is having to be revised because of the decline in revenue from last year's drop in oil production but the government sector is the most likely area to show pruning. According to President Shagari's recent Budget speech there was growth of something like 15 per cent last year in Nigeria's manufacturing sector.

Any investment in Nigeria must, therefore, be in the form of a joint venture. A joint venture may be with one or several local partners depending on a variety of factors. If it is with an individual it may be the person with whom dealings over a number of years have built up a mutual trust — simple exporters of goods were warned at a recent meeting of the Nigerian British Chamber of Commerce that if they do not soon become local manufacturers they may see their trade dwindle. Or it could be a man of proven integrity, even if of limited resources. Or it might be a rich established businessman wishing

to expand his interests into new fields.

It has to be recognized, however, that Nigerian domestic politics can change the circumstances of the individual partner in ways that may not be beneficial for the businesses in which he is involved and therefore it may be advisable to extend the Nigerian ownership beyond an individual. This can help to tap local capital sources, increase the number of people with an interest in the success of the venture and help the foreign investor to be the largest single shareholder. This latter object is desirable since it will help the foreign investor to be responsible for day-to-day management of the venture — it is assumed that there will be a local board responsible for more strategic management.

Management resources in Nigeria are very stretched and are inadequate for the country's needs, especially at middle management and supervisory levels where development is far outstripping the supply of experienced people. An investor will have to expect to do a considerable amount of training. He will come under pressure to indigenize his staff as soon as possible but also sheer cost of maintaining expatriate staff in Nigeria will ensure that few investors will keep them there longer than is essential.

For anybody contemplating investing in Nigeria it is essential to visit the country, and to keep visiting it or at least have regular visits made by a very senior member of the investing organization. But before going out to do some thorough homework — mistakes can be expensive.

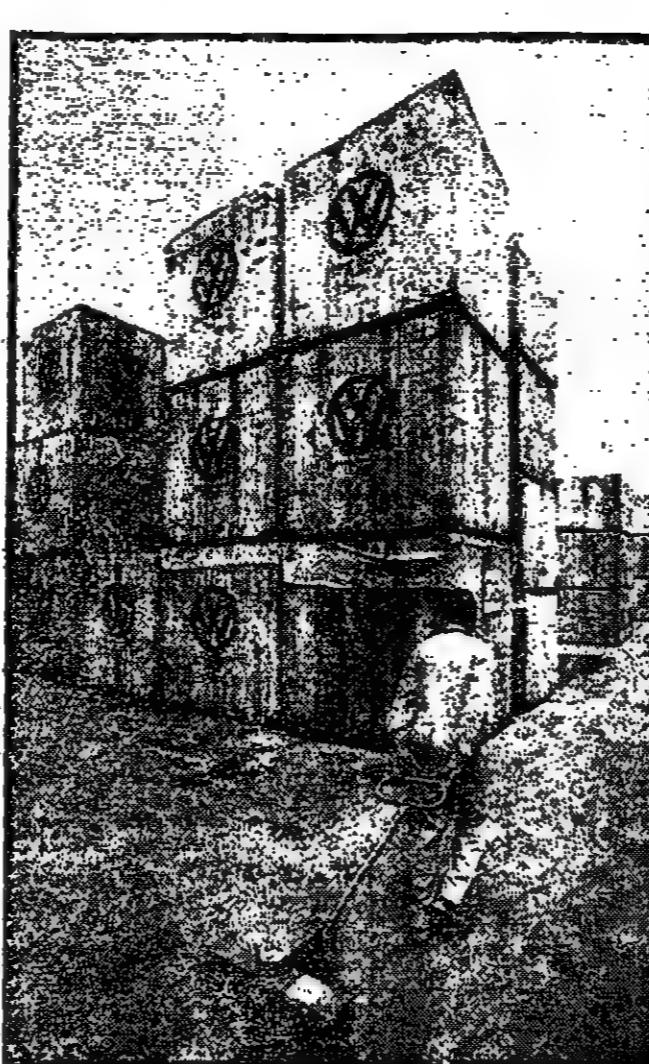
Not only will there be a lot of paper but it will have to be filled in faultlessly, the chances are that the civil servants handling forms will not have the confidence born of years of experience to pass over a slip of the pen and will stick rigidly to what the rule book actually says, not apply its spirit. (There is a tale of one form having been rejected because of a change of ink).

The guidelines to the fourth national development plan list nearly 100 industries that the Federal Government would like to see developed. They range from telecommunications switchgear to toothpicks: the latter probably do not offer much opening for a foreign investor.

Areas in which the Government is particularly keen are agriculture and agriculturally

based industries; in these sectors foreigners are allowed 60 per cent of the equity but very careful planning and advance studies are needed in these activities. It should also be remembered that Nigerian agriculture is not heavily mechanized and much of the land is not suitable for the farming technology that is used in Europe.

Nigeria's population is generally put at the convenient round figure of 80 million and the proportion coming into the cash economy as potential customers is increasing, even faster than the overall population — one projection has forecast this at 200 million by 2,000 which could provide a substantial home market to support an industry. Nigeria is a member of the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, a grouping of 16 countries which is moving towards a customs union



Volkswagen parts for assembly at the Lagos plant.

with internal free trade (by the end of May 1982) and a common external tariff. By then the transport system with the 16 states — stretching westwards from Nigeria to Senegal — should be much improved, making the possibility of exporting from a Nigerian manufacturing base a reality.

All round, Nigeria offers many attractions and openings for overseas investors — and is more kindly inclined towards those who declare faith in Nigeria's future early. Setting up there can be arduous, requiring a lot of patience and painstaking attention to detail. There are profits to be earned, though it would not be wise to expect automatically to repeat the experience of the company which last year declared a dividend of 30 per cent on its first full year of production.

Peter Thistle Saffern

TRADE

In the court of King Oil

In the terms of its size, the oil wealth at its disposal and the country's long-term development plans the Nigerian market remains one of the most attractive in the world. But for Nigeria the most worrying aspect of her trade is the pattern which persists after 21 years of independence: the country remains an importer of all the most important manufactured goods and an exporter of raw materials.

The only significant change in the pattern is that oil has been substituted for agricultural commodities as the principal export. In addition, most of Nigeria's trade remains with Europe and North America. Revenues from oil enable Nigeria to import the machinery and manufactures she requires for her development; few of these are as yet being produced at home.

The oil glut forced Nigeria to cut its production back

drastically during 1981 to a low of 773,000 bpd in July and one result of that was a package of austerity measures in September. Oil accounts for over 95 per cent of all Nigerian exports. It dominates Nigeria's trade too much for comfort and in 1980 96.1 per cent of all foreign earnings came from oil. The value of oil exports last year came to 135,000m naira while that of all other exports to only 55,000m naira. Even despite the glut increased prices for oil mean the value of exports has leapt from a 1977 figure of US\$12,430m to a 1981 forecast figure of US\$20,000m.

Principal customers for Nigeria's oil exports (1980

figures are the USA — 44.3

per cent, The Netherlands

22.1 per cent, France 11.2

per cent, West Germany

5.6 per cent, Italy 2.8 per

cent and ECOWAS 2.8 per

cent. A cause for concern

during 1980 was the fact that non-oil exports fell by 17 per

cent. Of these latter Britain

takes 26.8 per cent, other

partners for Nigeria's non-oil

exports are The Netherlands

17.6 per cent, West

Germany — 17 per cent, USA

— 11.7 per cent, followed by

France, Japan and Italy.

Most of Nigeria's imports

come from Europe with

Britain well in the lead as

principal supplier although

that position is now strongly

challenged by West Germany.

The main categories for

Nigerian imports are machin-

ery and transport equipment

(valued at 4,548m naira in

1980), manufactured goods

(2,076m naira), food and live

animals (1,091m naira), chemi-

cals (734m naira) other miscel-

laneous manufactures and

mineral fuels.

In 1977 Nigerian imports

cost US\$9,721m and were

more than covered by exports;

but for 1981 it is

estimated that imports will

cost US\$22,000m, and that

there will be an adverse trade

balance in the region of

US\$2,000m, the highest ever.

It is expected, moreover, that

the overall balance of pay-

ments deficit this year will

be about US\$1,000m, resulting

in a deficit of about 10,000m at the end of 1981.

Britain is still by far the

largest supplier to Nigeria

and currently holds about 22

per cent of the Nigerian

market. Nigeria is Britain's

third largest overseas market

and her largest outside

Europe and the USA. Britain's

principal exports to Nigeria

consist of machinery, trans-

port equipment and food.

In return (now that Britain no longer

takes Nigerian oil) Nigeria

mainly supplies agricultural

commodities. There is a huge

trade deficit in Britain's

favour.

The size of the Nigerian

market is testified to by the

fact that in the six months to

the end of November 1981,

for example, British firms

alone won contracts in Nigeria

worth £350m. Yet, despite

such figures Nigerians suggest

that British businessmen

are not sufficiently aggressive

and that in consequence

too many major projects are

won by Britain's principal

competitors — West Germany,

France, Japan and the USA.

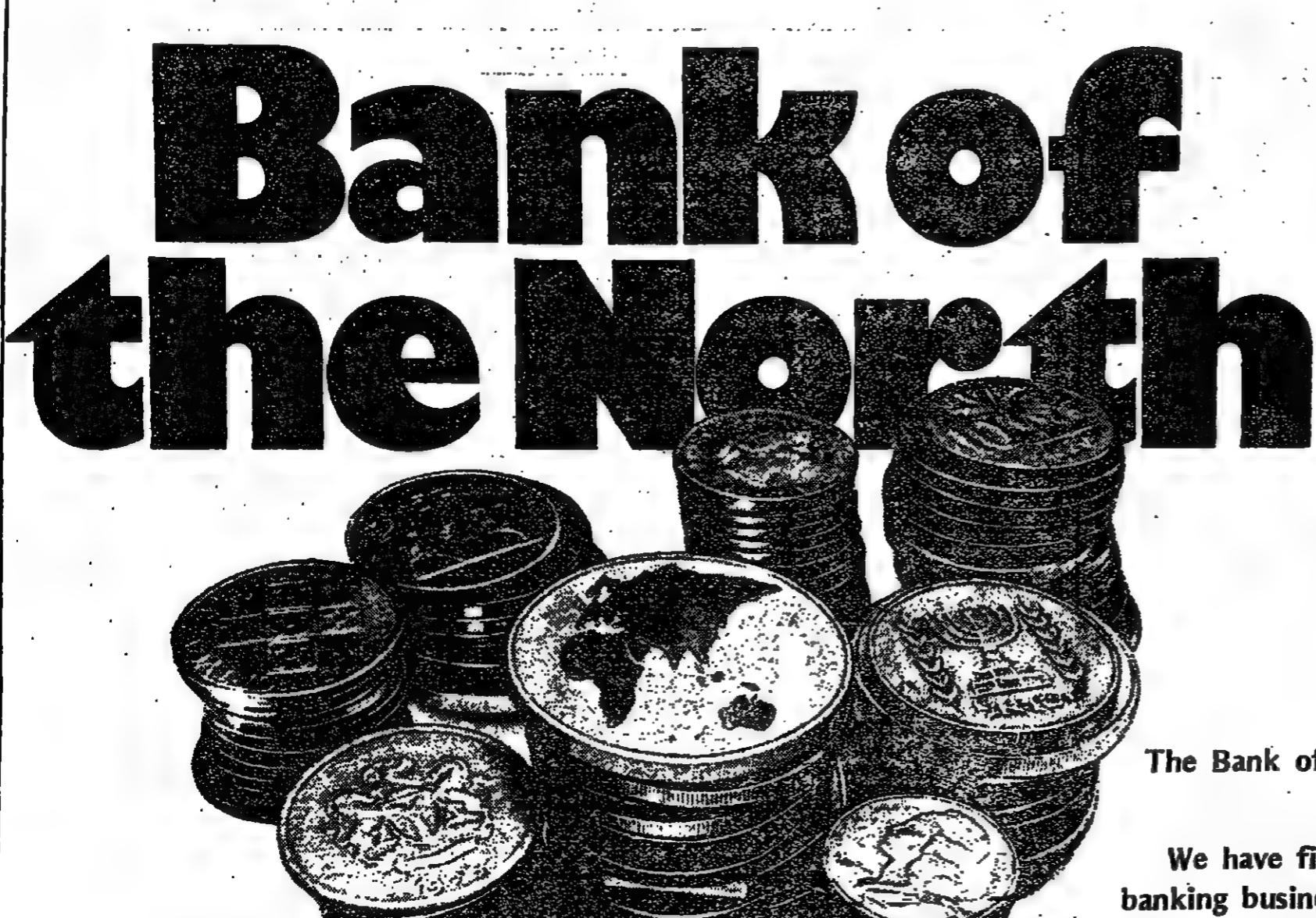
Most successful
is Peugeot

In 1980, after Britain, West Germany held 15 per cent of the Nigerian market, the USA 11 per cent, Japan 10.8 per cent, France 7.1 per cent, Italy 5.7 per cent and The Netherlands 4.1 per cent.

In recent years France has made determined efforts to obtain a larger share of the Nigerian market; she has had considerable success and Nigeria is now France's second trading partner overall in Africa after Algeria. In 1980, for example, France supplied Nigeria with 200,000 tonnes of sugar which accounted for 16 per cent of her exports to her.

French investment in Nigeria is increasing fast and there are now more than 120 French companies operating in the country. The most visible — and successful — of these is Peugeot. Last year

Guy Arnold



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Nigerians desperately need foreign expertise and foreign investment but hate to admit it. Gillian Gunn explains attitudes to economic nationalism

Holding on to independence

A tourist wandered into the central Lagos market recently, taking photographs of elegantly obese "Mammy traders" selling equally plump silver fish out of old, somewhat unhygienic, oil drums. An irate Nigerian accosted her: "You can't take pictures that ridicule us and then sell them in Europe for your own profit. Give me that film or I'll smash your camera!"

Like many Third World countries, the colonial experience has left Nigeria with an understandable chip on its shoulder. The desire to appear respectable in Western eyes, avoid exploitation and demonstrate independence evidenced in the man's outburst is reflected throughout Nigerian life. It has special consequences when applied in the economic sphere.

Ever since independence the Nigerian Government has sought to prove itself an independent entity that cannot be pushed around by the old masters. A particularly vigorous form of economic nationalism emerged early on, which idealizes reduction of foreign control over all aspects of commerce and industry.

But in recent years the "I'm all right Jack" attitude has been tempered by a realization that Nigeria desperately needs the technical and financial resources foreigners can supply. Nigerian nationalism has acquired an ambivalent flavour, with the country simultaneously yearning for foreign assistance and hating to admit it.

Consequently the Government constantly tinkers with legislation as it tries to balance nationalistic desires with economic realities.

An example of this balancing effort is found in the "National Office of Industrial Property" legislation. Established in 1979 by the outgoing military government, the office was supposed to examine trademark, management and technical agreements between Nigerian and foreign firms to ensure that the technology transfer terms were fair. Objectionable agreements which exploited Nigerian enterprises were to be denied foreign exchange approval for payment.

Because of the profit motive, foreign companies supplying technology don't want us to develop the absorptive capacity to redesign and implement that



The single white face among miners at Onyeama coal mine belongs to a Polish expatriate.

(officially termed the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree). This limits foreign investment with the aim of "promoting and protecting Nigerian participation in all areas of the economy".

The decree permits 40 per cent or 60 per cent foreign equity investment in Nigeria, depending on the target sector's level of technology and capital intensity.

Designed to reduce foreign control of the economy, the law soon created a "chilling effect" on investors in some sectors. In February 1981 the Government responded by increasing the foreign equity limit for a number of sectors, including agribusiness, from 40 per cent to 60 per cent.

More recently President Shagari proposed a Bill in the National Assembly which would redefine a foreign company in the context of the indigenization decree and permit greater foreign expansion in Nigeria.

The balance between these conflicting imperatives is also reflected in Nigeria's 1977 "indigenization decree".

Finally the nationalist/pragmatist dilemma is illustrated in Nigeria's policies on expatriates. Nigeria's image

of itself as an independent country equal in stature to the old colonial power is not enhanced by the presence of thousands of expatriates.

When applying for an expatriate permit an prospective employer must report its programme for training Nigerians as well as its plans for replacing foreigners with locals. The Government can also order outright employment of Nigerians. Last winter, for example, firms were instructed to place Nigerians in executive board positions.

In technology transfer, foreign investment and expatriate employment the balance between nationalism and pragmatism has increasingly been struck in the latter's favour over the last few years. But admitting the need for foreign assistance does not rest easily on the Nigerian conscience and the pendulum is sure to swing the other way again eventually. In the meantime, nationalist rhetoric will continue to live uncomfortably with economic realism.

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AND CORRESPONDENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD

FOCUS

continued from page IX

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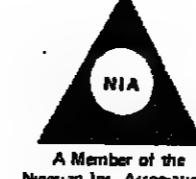
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 Works: Professor Sunday Matthew Essang

continued from page VIII

Housing and Environment, 1st Floor, Block 1, New Secretariat, Ikoyi.

Industries, 9th Floor, Block 1, New Secretariat, Ikoyi.

Internal Affairs, 1st Floor, Block 1, New Secretariat, Ikoyi.

Justice, 4th Floor, Block 2, New Secretariat, Ikoyi.

Mines and Power, 6 Storey Building, Broad Street, Lagos.

National Planning, 5th and 6th Floors, Block 1, New Secretariat, Ikoyi.

Police Affairs, 2, Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island.

Sciences and Technology, 3rd and 4th Floors, Republic House, Marina, Lagos.

Social Welfare, Youth, Sports and Culture, Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island.

Steel Development, 1 Ozumba Mbadiwe Street, Victoria Island.

Transport, Joseph Street, Lagos.

Water Resources, 5, Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island.

Public Works, Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos.

Transport

Road: All-weather roads make it possible to get to many points by car but in some areas many secondary roads are likely to become impassable during the rains. Traffic travels on the right.

Rail: The railway system consists of about 3,500 km of track with main lines from Lagos and Port Harcourt which meet at Kaduna. The line then continues through Zaria and Kano to Ngu. There is a branch line to Jos, Gombe and Misiduri and another to Funtua, Gusau and Kaura Namoda. Although passenger facilities exist the main traffic is freight. At present the railways are managed by an Indian company, Rail India Technical Economic Services. A new standard gauge railway system is to be built covering over 6,000 km of track.

Ports: The three main ports are Apapa/Tin Can Island, Port Harcourt and Calabar. The other four — Sapele, Warri, Burutu and Koko handle only small quantities of freight. Plans are on hand to expand the Atlas Cove oil terminal at Lagos.

Air: Nigerian Airways operate services from Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt to link with 11 other centres: Sokoto, Maiduguri, Ibadan, Benin, Enugu, Calabar, Makurdi, Ilorin, Kaduna, Jos and Yola.

Entry regulations

Business visitors must now apply for entry permits to the Nigeria High Commission Area Office nearest to their business address. These are:

- The Nigeria High Commission Area Office, 3-11, North St Andrew Street, Edinburgh. Telephone: 031-557 0275 (Scotland and the north of England)
- Nigeria High Commission, Consular Section, Fleet Street, London EC4. Telephone: 01-352 3776 (the south and east of England)
- Nigeria High Commission Area Office, Oriel Chambers, 5 Covent Garden, Liverpool. Telephone: 051-227 4921 (Wales and the west of England)

Visitors with passports bearing statements such as "Visa applied for" should not travel to Nigeria until they have a valid entry permit. The application should be made well in advance and should be supported by a letter of invitation to visit Nigeria and the return ticket for the journey.

Health certificates

Visitors require international certificates of vaccination against smallpox (issued not more than three years previously), yellow fever (not more than 10 years previously), and cholera (not more than six months previously) only if arriving from an infected area. A TAB vaccination is recommended.

Radio and TV

Radio: Nigerian radio services are controlled and owned by the Federal and State governments. A national service is provided by the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) known as Radio Nigeria with headquarters in Lagos.

In addition to the national service state broadcasting stations are operated in each of the states. There is also an FRCN external service which broadcasts to Europe, Africa and the Middle East in English, French, Hausa and Arabic.

Television: A national TV network was established at the end of 1975 bringing under Federal control the stations previously operated by some states. Countrywide colour coverage is virtually complete with an NTA (Nigerian Television Station) now in every state.

Several state governments, mainly those opposed to the present Government, are now also establishing their own TV stations.

Public holidays

Public holidays — 1982

*Eid el Mawlid

January (1982): January 19

*Eid el Fitr

July (1982): July 31

National Day

October 1

*Eid el Kabir

October (1982): October 8

The dates of holidays marked * depend on physical sightings of the moon and therefore vary each year. The Muslim lunar calendar has only 354 or 355 days so Muslim dates and holidays fall 10 to 12 days earlier each year on the Gregorian calendar.

Principal religions

It is estimated that about 44 per cent of the population is Muslim. About 22 per cent is Christian and most denominations are represented.

Ethnic groups and language: English is the official language but there are four main linguistic and tribal groups: Yoruba in the west; Ibo (east); Hausa and Fulani (north).

Bookshelf

Shehu Shagari, My Vision of Nigeria (Frank Cass, 1981) edited by Aminu Tijjani and David Williams

Nigeria since 1970: A political and economic outline (Longmans, 1981) Anthony Kirk-Greene and Douglas Rimmer

Nigerian Financial System (Macmillan, 1980) G. O. Nwankwo

continued on page X

Balance of payments forecast

	(N m)					
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Exports	14,640	15,872	16,758	17,854	19,079	20,306
Imports	11,818	13,263	14,884	16,601	18,485	20,548
Trade balance	2,822	2,409	1,874	1,293	594	-242
Net service payments	-1,233	-1,258	-1,330	-1,493	-1,538	-1,622
Current account balance	1,588	1,150	544	200	1,160	2,380
Net transfers	-233	-282	-288	-306	-337	-364
Direct foreign investments	240	264	290	350	400	450
Official capital	560	700	750	800	850	900
Change in reserves	+2,156	+1,852	+1,296	+644	-247	-1,394

Source: Outline of the Fourth National Development Plan 1981-85

Imports

	(N million)		
	1978	1979	1980
Food and live animals	1020.7	766.5	1091.0
Beverages and tobacco	70.7	49.8	67.3
Crude materials	108.4	112.1	135.2
Mineral fuels	17.6	206.8	241.5
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	73.3	73.3	77.3
Chemicals	647.8	540.3	720.0
Manufactured goods	1850.3	1524.1	2076.0
Machinery & transport equipment	3587.5	3791.5	4548.6
Miscellaneous manufactures	664.5	414.8	666.4
Unclassified	13.8	14.3	20.3
Total	8211.7	7472.5	9658.1

* Provisional * Estimated

Major trading partners — 1980

	Imports (per cent)	Exports (per cent)
Britain	21.2	1.4
West Germany	13.8	12.6
Japan	11.4	—
France	10.2	12.4
USA	8.6	46.9
Netherlands	7.0	12.0
Italy	5.2	3.9
Belgium	4.5	1.8
Sweden	—	2.3

Trade with Britain

	Imports (£m)	(1978-80 £/d)
Food and live animals	58.7	35.4
Beverages and tobacco	12.1	5.1
Crude materials	8.2	13.5
Mineral fuels	13.5	13.7
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	2.1	2.2
Chemicals	171.9	123.2
Manufactured goods	224.0	131.0
Machinery & transport equipment	—	223.5
Miscellaneous manufactures	135.5	510.8
Unclassified	6.7	5.1
Total	1122.3	638.2
External debt	1204.3	—

*January-August
Revised 20th January

Source: UN Bulletin of Statistics

International reserves minus gold

1981 US\$ m

January 9,974

February 9,164

March 9,728

April 9,089

May 10,161

June 9,670

Source: United Nations

Crude oil production

(1978-80 £/d)

1971 1,530

1972 1,418

1973 2,054

1974 2,256

1975 1,786

1976 2,067

1977 2,085

1978 1,926

1979 2,292

1980 2,052

Rex Collings reflects on the political influence wielded in the writings of Wole Soyinka and a Special Correspondent argues that the freedom of the press is undermined by journalists' irresponsibility

A passionate voice crying out against corruption

There is in C. S. Lewis's description of the birth of Narnia a passage that runs: "Can you imagine a stretch of grassy land bubbling like water in a pot? For that is really the best description of what was happening. In all directions it was swelling into lumps, all lumps moved and swelled till they burst, and the crimsoned earth poured out of them, and from each lump there came out an animal... But the greatest moment of all was when the biggest lump broke like a small earthquake and out came the sloping back, the large, wise head, and the four boggily-trousered legs of an elephant."

To the outside observer Nigeria at the time of independence displayed some of that same attribute of "bubbling like water in a pot". Out from each bubble came a poet, or a playwright, or a musician, or an artist. In the whole world of the arts there was a feeling of tremendous excitement of fecundity, an atmosphere of boundless, constant activity. One was overwhelmed by the number of artists who flourished there — like the old Windmill, their haunt, the Mbari Club never seemed to close.

One of this band was Wole

Soyinka, who in the early sixties was the most promising of the playwrights. Two full-length plays written during this period, *The Lion and the Jewel* and *A Dance of the Forest*, which was published in London and performed as part of the Nigerian independence celebrations in 1960, showed in his writing a profound hatred of the corruption and backwardness of the political establishment — as a radical he supported Chief Awolowo, the leader of the Action Group, then the main opposition party — and he denounced the activities of the Northern conservatives and their southern allies and hangers on.

The armed "invasion" of the Ibadan broadcasting studio in 1965 and the anti-Government broadcast became something of a cause célèbre. The breakdown, particularly in the Western Region, of law and order, and then the Major's Coup of 1966 put him in a dilemma. He hated military rule and dictatorship, he hated the old corruption and he hated the idea of civil war. The leader of the first coup had a very brief reign, being almost immediately replaced by General Ironsi, the Army Commander, who was soon

overthrown in the period leading to the Civil War.

Wole Soyinka has described in his prison memoirs the events that lead to his arrest and the experience of his long and mostly solitary confinement — in the introductory note he describes very clearly and succinctly his attitude to public affairs — "the man dies in all who keep silent in the face of tyranny".

For the first time he has left the sidelines and joined a political party, not as might have been expected, the United Party of Nigeria, the party of his old friend and mentor Chief Awolowo — the successor party to the Action Group — but to the radical section of the People's Re-

demption Party.

He sees this as the most effective way of attacking the corruption that he believes is so rife in central government. Very much, too, he sees the need for an authentic African voice to denounce the tyrannies of Africa — whether black or white.

Internally, too, Wole Soyinka has used, and still uses, his great moral authority to condemn such affronts to civilized standards as the public executions that not so many years ago were



Wole Soyinka: "Art should expose, indeed magnify the decadent underbelly of society"

held on the Lagos beaches. He had fought for the rights and independence of students and the universities.

It is not as an unacknowledged legislator that he sees his role and responsibility as a poet, but rather as a voice of reason and conscience in a country where sudden and great wealth and unfeigned power has tended to ignore the one and stifle the other. His commitment to his country is total — why else is he so affronted by the defects of his leaders? His local roots are a strong fact seen in his recently published auto-

biography *Ake: The Years of Childhood*. What will happen next? In this period before the next general election will the power be submerged by the party politicians? It will be fascinating to observe the *Metamorphosis* of Wole Soyinka to see whether the writer's distinctive vocation will survive.

"The Magician's Nephew, London 1955 (pp110-111) † Preface to *Opera Wonyosi*, London 1981 — the play was first performed at the University of Ife in December 1977. It is an adaptation of *The Beggar's Opera*.

The Nigerian Government strongly encourages com-

pany in-house programmes, and needs makes approval of foreign firms' expatriate quotas contingent upon the quality of the training programme for Nigerians. In addition, each company must establish elaborate training programmes for even the most rudimentary tasks. Because many workers grew up in villages lacking even a water tap, they can be unfamiliar with the most basic technical concepts. They must therefore be taught skills that Western youngsters learn in the playground. This does not reflect Nigerian stupidity, but rather inexperience with industrial society. Even when the workers are fully trained, difficulty with technical problems brings productivity down to about 60 per cent or 70 per cent of developed world standards.

Managerial training has moved ahead more smoothly. "We are having an easier time finding managers now than we did ten years ago," says the (Nigerian) marketing manager of a foreign glass manufacturing concern in Lagos. "But they are all new recruits and we still lack experienced Nigerian personnel."

Successful company training programmes for both managers and workers also suffer from widespread inter-company poaching. "Out of every two people we train we keep only one for more than a year," says a firm particularly annoyed with this problem. Companies have tried to retain workers through bonding, but this is seen as bordering on "involuntary servitude" and is highly unpopular.

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The Nigerian Government strongly encourages com-

Gillian Gunn

His master's voice instead of a watchdog

Nigerians often boast that they have the freest press in Africa. This is true in the sense that there are newspapers that feel able to criticize the Government in the strongest terms, often abusing and insulting the President and making serious allegations against senior members of his government.

However, it is often alleged with some truth that Nigerian journalism, though free, is not independent; that is, that most newspapers follow a party line and that most journalists do as they are told, rather than exercise their own judgment.

President Shagari and other leaders of his National Party of Nigeria have often expressed their commitment to the freedom of the press. But concern has recently been caused by the arrest of some editors after publication of allegedly false accusations against the President (these cases are still sub judice) and by allegations that pressure has been exerted on broadcasting journalists and on the *Daily Times* to toe a party line.

The Nigerian press played a proud part in the struggle for independence and it also managed to maintain a degree of self-respect during military rule from 1966 to 1979. There were instances of journalists being beaten up by soldiers and the newspapers were under tremendous pressure. But they maintained some freedom to criticize.

When the time came to draw up a civilian constitution much debate was given to the question of whether there should be a constitutional guarantee of freedom for the press. The Constituent Assembly finally decided that the rights of freedom of expression given to every citizen were enough to cover the needs of newspapers too.

15 dailies and many weeklies

There has been a boom in newspaper growth since the return to civilian rule in 1979, with over 15 daily newspapers now being published and a proliferation of weeklies and magazines.

The most important are: the *Daily Times*, of which more later, the *New Nigerian*, published in Kaduna and regarded as the voice of the northern establishment, wholly owned by the Federal Government but one of the most serious and intellectually independent of the papers; the *Tribune*, the voice of Chief Awolowo's Unity Party of Nigeria, published in Ibadan and unrestrainedly (sometimes irresponsibly) critical and abusive of the ruling party; the *National Concord*, published since March 1980, by the wealthy Chief M. K. O. Abiola, a newspaper totally committed to the ruling party but employing many of the stars of Nigerian journalism and most intelligently produced; *Punch*, published in Lagos and almost the only politically independent newspaper, very bright and popular with scantily clad girls on page three.

There are also newspapers appealing mostly to the regions in which they are published, such as the *Daily Sketch* of Ibadan, the *Daily Star* of Enugu, the *Chronicle* of Calabar, the *Herald* of Ilorin, the *Observer* of Benin City, the *Standard* of Jos, the

Statesman of Owerri and the *Tide* of Port Harcourt.

The case of the *Daily Times* is interesting if highly controversial. The paper is 60 per cent government-owned. President Shagari, during his presidential campaign, gave some support to proposals that it should be returned entirely to private hands, but this proposal was dropped after he came to power.

Since then the board has been completely reconstituted, the editor changed and a large number of senior staff redeployed, many leaving the company as a result. Many saw this attempt to make the paper a more consistent supporter of the ruling National Party of Nigeria, though this is vigorously denied by the party and the new *Daily Times* men.

Loss of morale and circulation

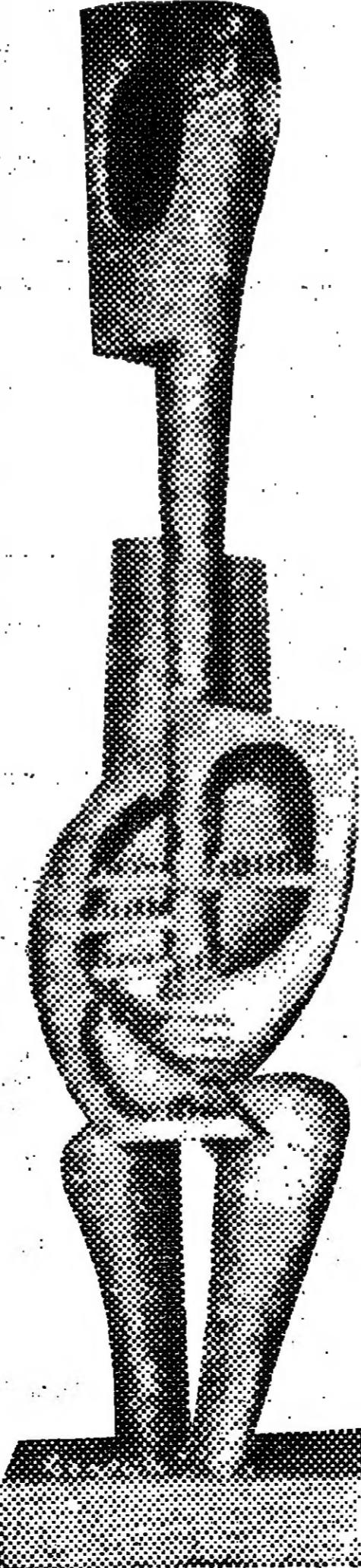
However, one undoubtedly result has been a serious loss of morale by the journalists left on the paper. It has also lost circulation and has lost money this year. (Most Nigerian newspapers are losing money, but the *Daily Times* has wide outside interests and has up to now recorded big yearly profits. There are special circumstances, however, including big expenditure on a new printing plant.)

The Governor of Lagos State, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, is a political opponent of the National Party of Nigeria and so his views are obviously partisan. But he is also a former journalist and speaks with authority on these matters. He said in a recent speech: "The *Daily Times*, which should be the leader of the mass media in objective journalism, has performed disgracefully in the past eighteen months. I am sure that the great journalists who laboured to build the reputation for the *Daily Times* must feel distressed that in their lifetime what they built is now being destroyed by their successors."

More generally, the shortcomings of Nigerian journalism come largely from the fact that it is not a highly-regarded profession in Nigeria. Men of quality find they can make more money and gain more status in other sectors. Journalists are often regarded as little more than messengers, carrying handouts back to be published. There is a distressing custom at political press conferences of handing the reporters envelopes containing money on the way out.

The matter was summed up in an article in *West Africa* by Abraham I. Obaze, of the Department of Mass Communication, University of Nigeria. He wrote that the Nigerian journalism was rarely objective. "He is his master's voice. He is supposed to approach information sources with maturity, because of his role as the watchdog of society. He is instead under the heavy thumb of the 'big brothers'. How can the ordinary man of this country form a valid opinion about events or discuss what is good and what is bad if the watchdog, though he is not harassed or shackled, will not even bark or bite? How can we have a responsible press if the journalist refuses to accept his responsibility but continues to lick the boots of the powers that be?"

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Reserves	64,312	47,597	82,314	39,883
Deposits etc.	2,407,218	1,576,225	1,268,844	850,948
Contra A/cs.	918,348	772,169	918,348	772,169
Total	3,419,878	2,425,991	3,419,878	2,425,991

N1 = US\$1.567; Stg. 0.783; FF 8.657

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The port of Lagos achieved notoriety in the late 1970s through bottlenecks caused by the oil boom. David Hilling suggests ways in which the system could be streamlined

The Tin Can stopgap

In Nigeria, as elsewhere, there is the problem of matching the supply of port facilities to the demand. Port structures take time to plan and construct and have a very long life. Yet trade patterns can change rapidly. For Nigeria, as for other developing countries, there is the additional problem of trying to provide basic port facilities at a time when maritime transport technology is undergoing rapid transformation with conventional labour-intensive cargo handling methods being replaced by unitization in various forms.

There are crucial questions relating to the choice of technology and timing its implementation. Mistakes will be costly and Nigeria will have to live with them for a long time.

There had been a gradual expansion of port facilities during the 1950s and 1960s and plans were in hand for a third extension at Apapa when the oil revenue increases of 1973/74 sent Nigeria on a spending spree. Shipping space was readily available to satisfy the dramatic increase in demand for consumer and producer goods including the excessive purchase of cement which for the moment it created, has claimed a place in maritime history. The ports could not immediately meet these new demands and by 1976 more than 400 vessels waited for berths.

The reaction to this crisis was to maximize mid-stream cargo handling into lighters, provide lighterage quays, develop roll-on/roll-off services and embark on a massive investment programme for additional deep-water berthing. In consequence Nigeria's trade leapt from 4,400,000 tonnes in 1974/75 to 11 million tonnes in 1978/79. Lagos-Apapa handled some 70 per cent of the national trade and not surprisingly two major expansion projects, the ten berth Tin Can Island scheme and the six berth Apapa extension, were located at the capital. Completed in only 17 months, the Tin Can Island complex has been described as a "short term solution to a long term problem" and may be criticized for being a rather conventional general cargo facility which falls far short



of the ideal for unitized

cargo. Container movements through Nigerian ports increased from 27,466 units in 1974/5 to 149,237 units in 1978/9 and 90 per cent of this traffic is through Apapa where the 33 ha of land at the new extension is grossly inadequate for efficient container handling. Out-of-port stacking is deficient and hinterland links create problems.

There has been some attempt to spread the load and considerable expansions

to berths at Warri, Port Harcourt and Calabar have enabled them to increase their share of trade to 35 per

cent.

Yet ports can only be as good as their hinterland links

permit. The roads in and around Lagos-Apapa have been greatly improved but evacuation routes still create problems. Tin Can Island has no rail link and Apapa extension suffers from congested access roads. Warri and Calabar have no rail links and the latter's ability to

offer relief to hard pressed Port Harcourt is severely restricted by the lack of hinterland routes.

For several decades Nigeria's railway system had been of declining importance for freight movement but if the ports are to meet the demands of the container age the railways must help. There are signs of improved management, some new facilities and rolling stock and plans for the conversion of some main lines from 3ft 6in to standard gauge.

At Kano a rail served inland container terminal has been built and

provided Customs clearance service thereby allowing containers to transit more rapidly through the ports. The Peugeot assembly plant at Kaduna, for long receiving its components by air, now depends on containers railed from Apapa, a route previously through impracticable because of port problems.

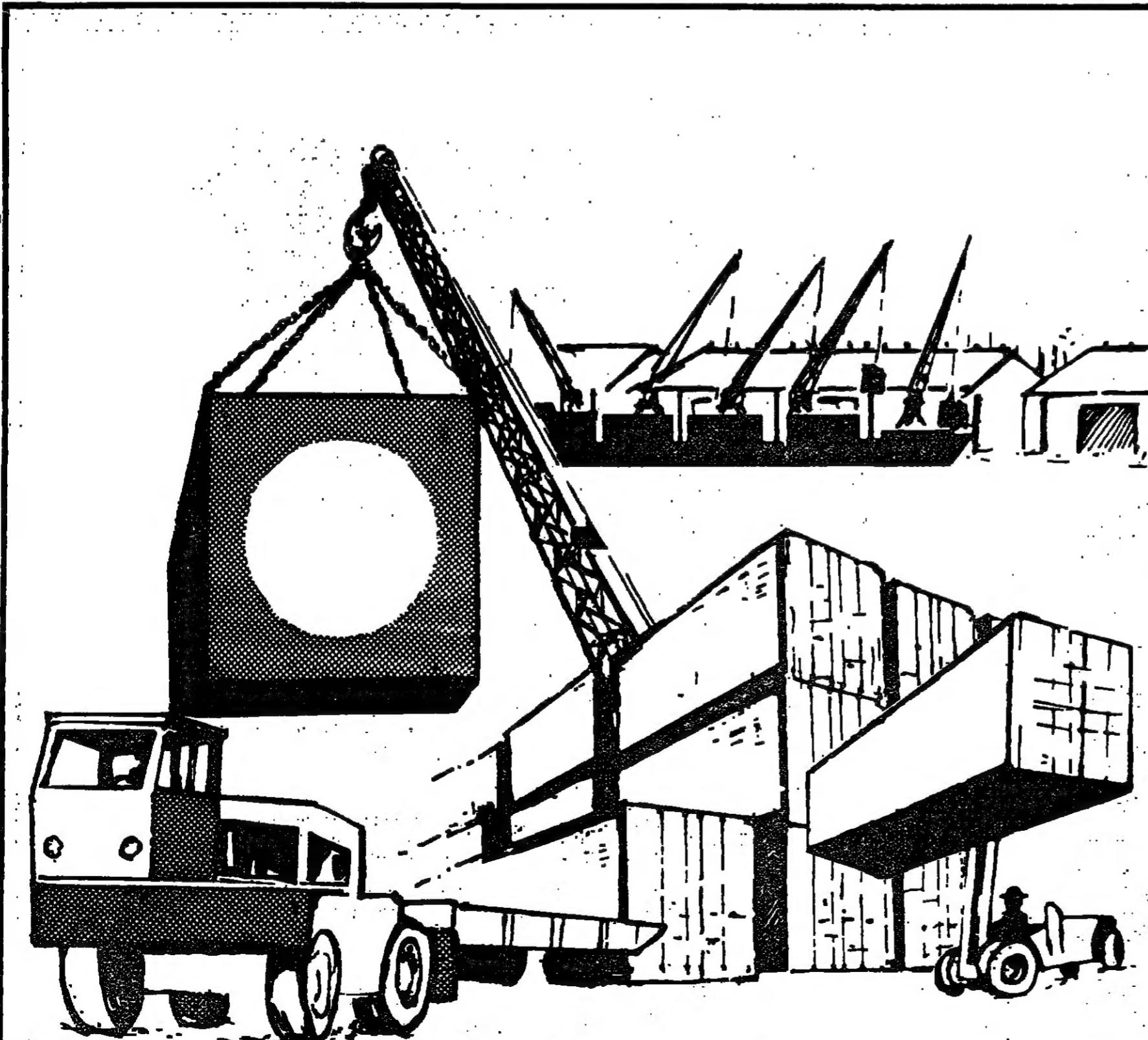
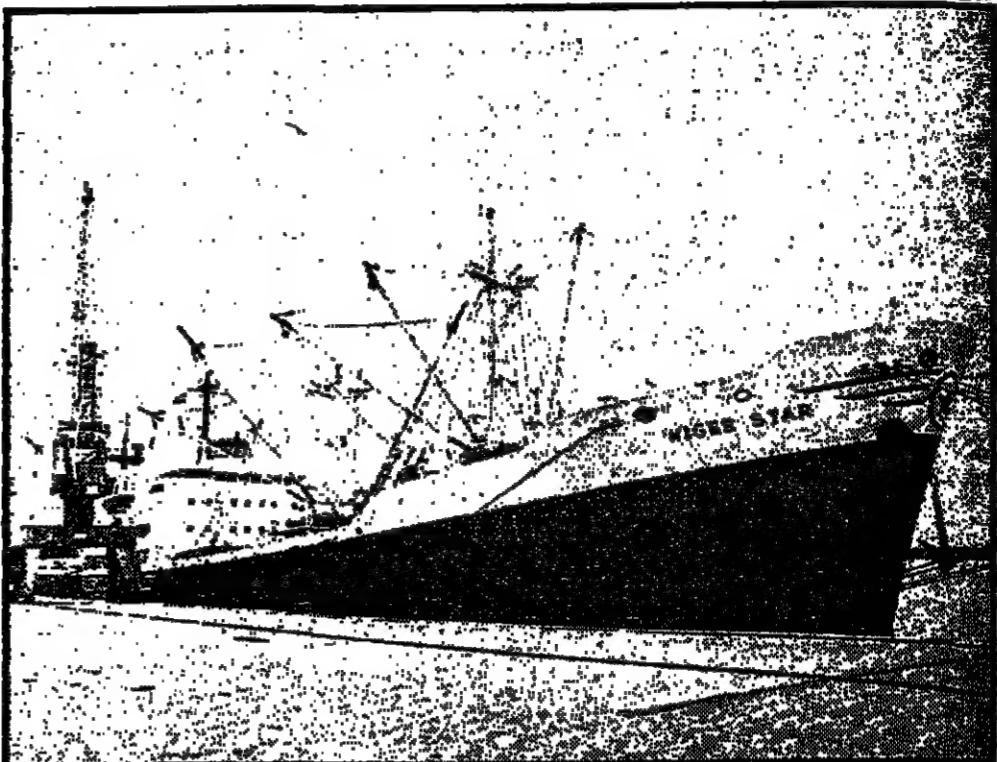
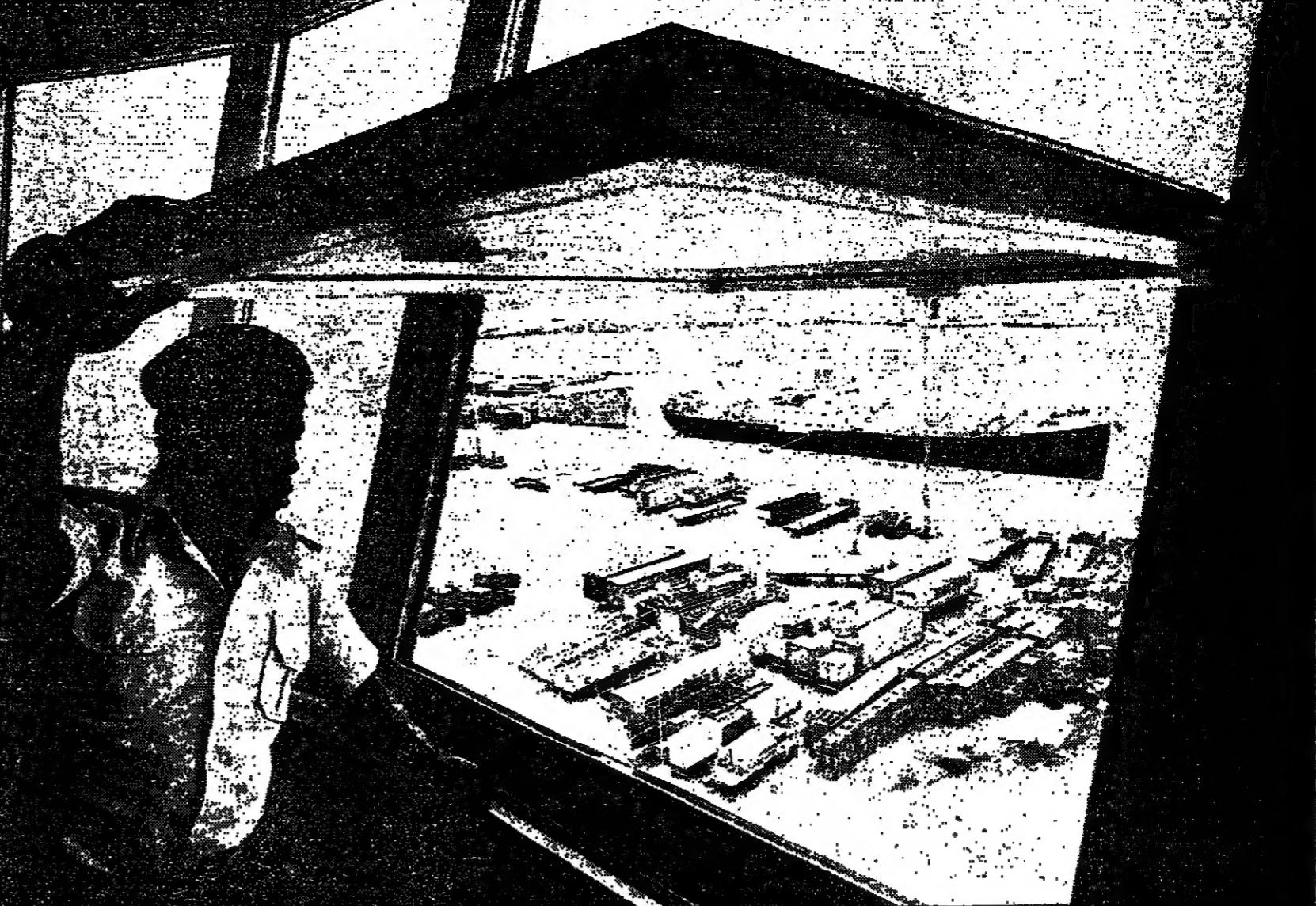
Road vehicles are often far from satisfactory for the efficient handling and rapid movement of freight. There has been some increase in

the number of flat-bed trailers but many of the traditionally favoured lorries have fixed sides and are tail loading which makes them particularly unsuited for the movement of unitized freight and can slow down the whole cargo handling process at the port.

The Central Water Transportation Company and Government are trying to rejuvenate an inland waterways system that had been allowed to decline. The Niger River is being dredged to provide 1.8m depth to Lokoja at all seasons and the recent delivery of four advanced pusher-tugs could herald a new era for standard gauge. At Kano a rail served inland container terminal has been built and provides Customs clearance service thereby allowing containers to transit more rapidly through the ports. The Peugeot assembly plant at Kaduna, for long receiving its components by air, now depends on containers railed from Apapa, a route previously through impracticable because of port problems.

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The author is senior lecturer in Geography at Bedford College, University of London.



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A market in Lagos: loud and lively — never dull

LAGOS

Africa's laughing, jostling, jiving city of cities

Lagos is fascinating. It is also frustrating, fatiguing, and filthy. The alliteration may describe Lagos but it does not do it justice. As Africans aptly point out, Abidjan may be sophisticated, Nairobi graceful, but Lagos has life.

It is this liveliness, this constant, swarming, confusing activity that gives the Nigerian capital its magnetic attraction. Resident expatriates will correctly tell you that once you have crossed the threshold of the first two years in Lagos, you could probably stay on for the next 20. Several have, but even those who leave are prone to return.

What is there in this city, at once repellent and endearing, that exercises this lure? The answer is perhaps that it is not an ordinary city, but a collection of several from the exotic to the barbaric, from the genteel to the criminal.

At one level it is a city of traders. Buying and selling are like twin heart beats that keep Lagos alive. When you are caught in one of its notorious "go-slow" (traffic jams), with a queue of cars often a mile long, stretching four-deep, clogging up what is supposed to be a modern super-expressway, from of the pavements, like genies, pop-hundreds of street sellers, hawking chocolates and garden hoses, car seat belts and gold watches, American magazines and French golden delicious, corkscrews and large "donkey-size" potatoes.

And, despite any import bans, the Government has devised, the ingenuity of the

Nigerian market mammy drops into your lap all the wonders (and trivialities) Oxford Street can provide.

There is nothing that is unobtainable in Lagos. It is merely a matter of knowing where to look and deciding how much to pay. Banned champagne sells by the crate at smugglers' stalls. Austrian laces are bought off crowded pavements and cheap Italian shoes from dusty gullies. But, the wonder of Nigeria marketing is a vast smugglers' paradise-Alagba Market. Here, row after row of boundlessly stocked stereophonic, video, electronic and mechanical wares compete on display, with Marantz rivalling Akai, JVC, Grundig and Sony.

The secret of the market mammy is her realization that there is money to be made in Lagos. It is this lure of wealth that in African eyes gives Lagos its glamour.

Government statistics show that the city grows at the rate of 35 people an hour, or 833 a day or a staggering 25,000 a month, as millions flock to it from all parts of Nigeria and beyond.

To English-speaking Ghanians and French-speaking Camerounians, to the Beninois, Togolese and proud defiant-looking Tuaregs, in their flowing caftans and indigo turbans, Lagos is the metropolis of Africa. They come there to seek their salvation, but end up in squalor, forced into prostitution or crime, begging for the few Kobo carelessly cast their way. Instead of turning

rich in Lagos they are swallowed up by one of its several cities for the poor.

Lagos ranges from the old Ikoyi reserve area bungalows of the rich, with their fleets of cars and their collections of air-conditioners and video.

to the one room tenements of the poor, with families of 10 crammed together on concrete floors for the night, without sanitation. Across the now dull and dirty waters off Queen's Drive, in stark contrast to its painted mansions and manicured lawns for the elite, are the slums of Maroko, the dingy shanty township with a population of perhaps a million or more.

For the majority of Lagosians home is in one of these muddy, water-logged hovels, or in those of Agege, Mushin, Oshodi or Anthony, where taps perpetually run dry and electricity has never penetrated.

There is in Lagos, apart from a city of traders, also a city for the rich and many smaller cities for the poor. Yet, even in its Dickensian quarters Lagos exhibits an Oliver Twist-like vitality. Disparity and desperation have together bred a class of Fagins with fingers as deft as any in literature. According to one of many uncertain statistics, upwards of 50 cars have been stolen each day.

Lagos is a city of crime on occasions, whole streets have been barricaded as armed robbers have systematically pillaged an entire stream of traffic elsewhere a complete neighbourhood has been laid bare. A certain

newspaper editor has even written of gangs sending advance warning of their arrival, courteously requesting cooperator and in return promising no further damage.

And underlying all of this is a certain admirable republican equality, senior cabinet ministers or chief justices are as prone to attack as their minions and servants.

Finally, uniting all these facets, with their contradictions and competition, is the laughter which gives Lagos the image which lingers in the memory long after recollections of sight and smell have faded.

Grinning faces, bodies doubling up with laughter and ecstatic exclamations — this is the uninhibited style of the Lagosian. Not for him the reserve of the Islamic north or the careful calculation of the east. Lagosians radiate liveliness from chaotic officers to insufficient clerks at passport counters, from taxi-driving cowboys to bored shopkeepers, there is nothing a smile cannot explain or a laugh forgive.

Karan Thapar

ABUJA

A capital idea comes true

The idea that the federal capital of Nigeria should be moved out of Lagos to Abuja, an almost empty site in the middle of the country, was conceived by the military government. But President Shagari swiftly committed his civilian Government to fulfilling the dream when he assumed power in 1979.

One of the first journeys outside Lagos the President made after his inauguration was to Abuja. This visit, he said then, was "a clear manifestation of my administration's irrevocable commitment to the speedy execution of this project".

He in fact advanced the timetable. If things go according to plan, his government will begin to move into the new city before the end of this year. It should certainly be operating from Abuja by the time the next elections are held in mid-1983.

The urgency is underlined by the fact that 2.5 per cent of the total federally-collected revenue is now devoted to the building of Abuja.

Lagos has its attractions but it is so overcrowded and difficult a city — with an unequalled crime wave, floods in the rainy season, traffic jams, uncertain water, electricity and telephones and a climate of steamy heat — that it is easy to see the need for the Government to move out.

There are political considerations too. Lagos, as well as being an international city, is part of Yorubaland, as it were. All seats of the Lagos State Assembly are occupied by members of the Unity Party of Nigeria, which is strongly opposed to the President's party in federal affairs.

Thus government men, particularly if they come from the north, feel to some extent that they are in unfriendly territory in Lagos. Abuja will be a neutral place for all political and ethnic sections of the population.

Visiting Abuja causes one to have doubts about the timetable. There seems so much to be done before what is now little more than a muddy and churned-up building site becomes a habitable city. But it is also inspiring

in a way: there is undoubtedly an atmosphere of excitement and activity being spent.

To get there last year I flew to Kaduna and then motored the 115 kilometres south. It is an excellently-maintained road.

The scenery makes an immediately favourable impression. It is basically savanna country, with a number of small hills, some steep-sided and seemingly made from one piece of stone (like a ball set down by a giant), and valleys filled with trees. It is high enough to be comparatively cool.

There was not much to be seen when I was there: a big runway for an airport was nearing completion; a radio transmitter was transmitting; a housing development at Suleja contains the offices of the Federal Capital Development Authority and some of the construction men; a number of roads were nearing completion.

I was told that about 600m naira had already been spent: 300m naira had gone on providing water, electricity, roads and office accommodation; over 200m naira had been committed for building houses; construction had started on the 64m naira Lower Usman Dam and 45m naira had been spent on the airport.

It is difficult now to visualize, but by the year 2000, if things go right, there will be a population of 1.6 million in bustling city. It will grow eventually to 3.2 million.

Immediately, however, activity is concentrated on what is called the accelerated district, a residential area near the future federal offices and National Assembly building. The Milton Keynes Development Corporation in Britain has been given responsibility for preparing the detailed plan for this. It will have a population of just over 25,000 and about 4,400 dwelling units.

The basic plan for the city is a crescent, fanning out from the city centre, which contains the National Assembly, government, institutional and local administrative offices, recreational

facilities, the commercial centre and a national arboretum.

The residential areas extending from this will be linked to it by expressways, carrying the main traffic, and transways for public transport.

There are plans for a series of parks and open spaces. A "mall" in the central area will provide the most important open space and will be flanked by the major public buildings.

The Japanese architect Kenzo Tange has been chosen as the supervising designer for Abuja, with three Nigerian design firms assisting. Details of the main buildings have not yet been published.

As many of the business and residential plots are to be developed by firms and individuals according to their own designs (subject to certain standards) the city will not have the unity of design that Brasilia has, for instance. There is provision made for several market areas, for Abuja is intended to be a distinctly Nigerian city.

With so much money been spent inevitably there have been allegations of corruption, and there will be more. The pessimists also say that even the most efficient construction teams will be unable to keep to the timetable envisaged.

But in spite of all this there is an air of optimism at Abuja itself. And the office of Mr John J. Kadaga, the Minister for the Federal Capital Territory, bustles with businesslike confidence.

President Shagari, during his visit to the territory, said: "It is my belief that the new federal capital will usher in a new era in the social, political and economic transformation of this country and serve as a vehicle for forging national unity and integration. All Nigerians will find a unique atmosphere for work and common grounds for national interaction. The new capital will create a cultural base which is truly Nigerian in character, reflecting the federal nature of our society."

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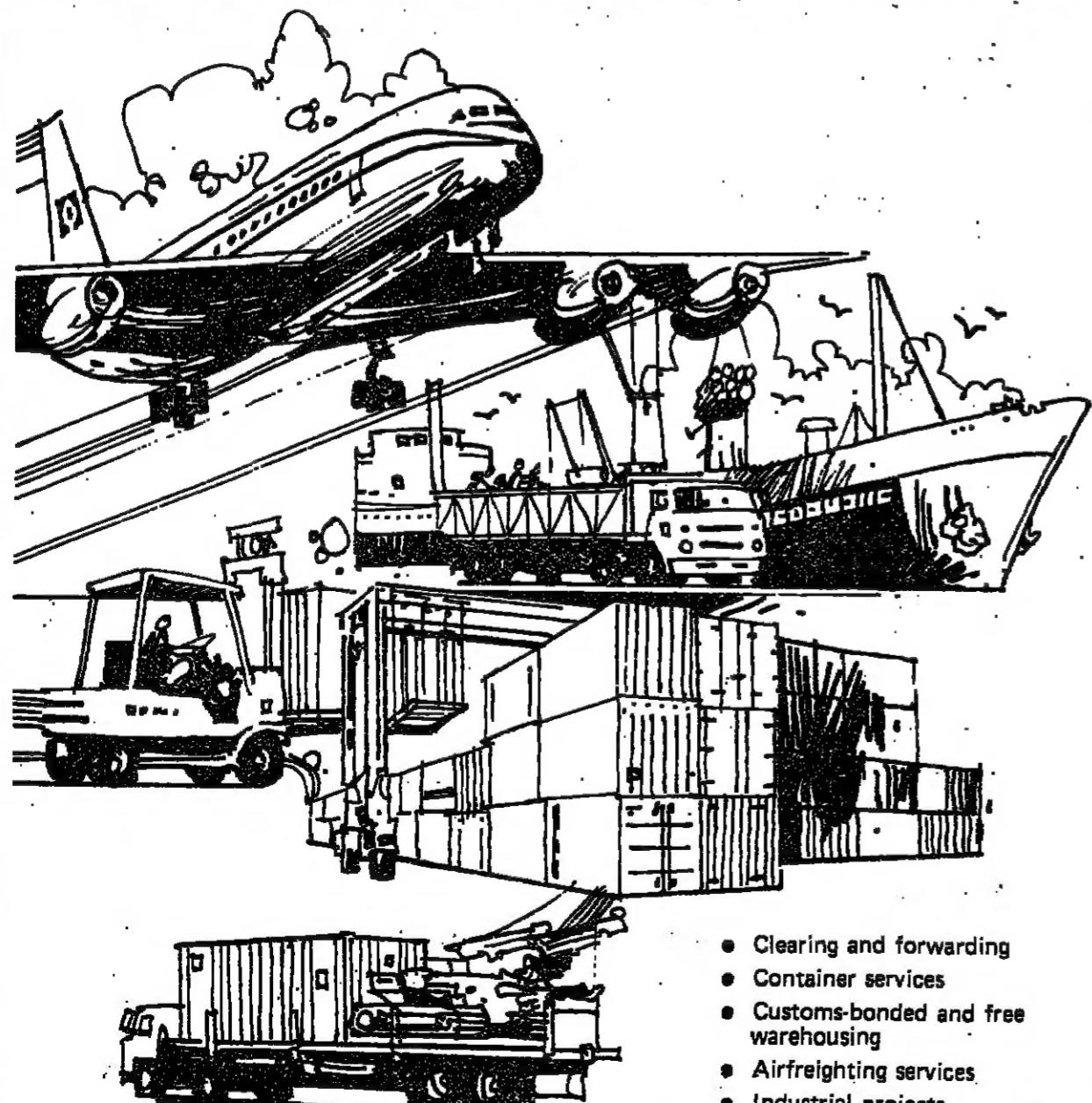
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When Leo Africanus visited Kano in the early sixteenth century, he wrote: "In the middle of the province stands a town called by the same name. The walls and houses hereof are built, for the most part, with baked clay and the inhabitants are rich merchants and the most civil of people."

Although today Kano extends far beyond those ancient walls, the old city remains the thriving, throbbing and hospitable heart of perhaps the most famous of the "seven true Hausa states" of yore. Stories of early Kano and its traditional leaders, such as Dala, a chieftain of very early times, are described in a famous chronicle. He, for example, was said to have been a "black man of great stature and might, a hunter who killed elephants with his stick and carried them on his head for nine miles".

Similar claims are made today by many a northern businessman. Surprisingly, many such can merit credible enquiry. Business methods, however, do differ. Large sums often change hands in cash for instance. But assertive confidence — even bravado — still breeds on the traditions of the ancient city. These pre-date both its becoming the capital of the state of Kano nearly a thousand years back and the introduction of Islam some six and a half centuries ago.

Islam is a vital constituent of Kano's vibrant life and society. Its introduction was not at first smooth, since at the beginning of the sixteenth century, the local people blamed it for a defeat at the hands of nearby Zaria, but with the blossoming of trans-Saharan trade its establishment was inevitable. Muslim teachers invariably accompanied merchants and often were merchants themselves. Itinerant preachers are still greatly respected. And the Kano environs today represent perhaps the most significant population concentration in the whole of Islamic West Africa.

The population of Kano has long been mainly Hausa, but an important minority claim descent from original Fulani inhabitants. The city itself is composed of about a hundred *zugus* (hamlets) each with its own mosque and usually a market. The oldest surviving building is probably the Emir's palace which dates from the fifteenth century. The great central mosque, largely rebuilt in 1951, claims to be the largest in Nigeria. But it is not, of course, just the city walls, the mosques and the palaces of the Fulani Emirs that are steeped in history. Significantly, so too are the markets and trade routes. Islamic laws and customs are still followed.

Traditional trade routes decline

Kano city and the surrounding area have survived a turbulent history, being at times tributary to Bornu and suffering too at the hands of Zaria and Katsina. But at the beginning of the last century Kano was captured by the forces of the famous militant mallam Usman dan Fodio, who led the Fulani in a *jihad* against their Hausa overlords. It was one of his pupils who was to become the first Emir of Kano and found the present dynasty.

By the end of the nineteenth century, however, due perhaps to the ending of the slave trade and growing European commercial control of the West African coast, traditional trade routes across the Sahara declined in importance. And Kano with them. Even so it was quite late in the scramble for Africa that the city fell to a British military expedition. In 1903 the British captured Kano and they created Kano Province soon afterwards. It encompasses an important area of 16,630 square miles of wooded savannah degenerating into scrub in the north. The light sandy soils are particularly good for groundnuts, but cotton, onions, tobacco, millet and gum-arabic are also produced. Cassava, maize, beans and guinea corn are the main subsistence crops. Livestock are to be found universally.

The British initiated the famous era of "indirect rule". One effect was that the rich indigenous culture — not a museum culture, it is very dynamic — nevertheless remained largely undisturbed by the colonial overlay. Kano city has remained renowned for the vigour of its rulers and the commercial and industrial skills of its people.

In addition to the traditional indigo dye industry — some of the dyeing pits are hundreds of years old — hides and skins and cattle on the hoof are important to the internal commerce of the whole of northern and central Nigeria. The trade in tanned and worked leather — particularly red goatskin, often misnamed "Moroccan leather", is world famous. Groundnuts, traditionally sacked and stacked in pyramids, have become a favourite subject of photographers. Dairying and meat canning are also important and the confectionery industry is growing.

Light manufacturing industry has developed, including

A sixteenth century visitor's description of Kano as a city "built with baked clay" still recognizable in this view of the old town.

the manufacture of steel furniture, footware and soap. There are printing presses, an abbatoir and bone-crushing plant, and there have recently been expansions in the areas of refrigeration, tyre re-treading and brewing.

After a week of fighting, which the police were unable to contain, the state Governor, Al Haji Abubakar Remi eventually appealed to the President for help. The Nigerian army and the air force took over and within two or three days troops had put down the rebellion and order was restored. But not before 4000 people had died.

It is apparent from the enquiry report into the riots, conducted by Mr Justice Aniagbosi and published about a year later, that top officials in Kano State were not aware of the serious developments that were taking place in the city but that at high levels they displayed hesitation and indecision. In the event, initial impulses to virtually declared an area of the city their private republic. The sect was led by a malam, "Maitatsine" or Muhammad Marwa, so named because he originated from the town of that name in northern Cameroon. His followers initiated a reign of terror involving the expropriation of property, the murder of opponents and attacks even on the police. On December 18, virtual civil war broke out between this sect and other Muslim citizens whom they nevertheless regarded as unbelievers. This resulted from an attempt to seize the main mosques and occupy the close-government schools and other centres.

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blame foreign conspiracies for the tragedy proved unfounded as they nearly always do in Nigeria and elsewhere.

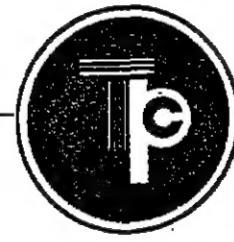
It is often said that those who do not study history are condemned to relive it. In an ancient city, so rich in history as Kano this might seem particularly relevant. Perhaps the learned judge's enquiry into the Kano riots — to say nothing of the deaths and injuries — might have been avoided had the governor, the police chief and the local head of the often rather arbitrary National Security Service studied Shaikh Muhammad al-Majhili — the famous Algerian theological preache

and jurist.

Writing of Kano at the end of the fifteenth century, he commented, not only that its leaders should "cherish the land from the spoiling of the air force took over and within two or three days troops had put down the rebellion and order was restored. But then he is a renowned Hausa scholar.

Richard Greenfield

The author was formerly Dean of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Benin, Nigeria.



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